



## BURGLAR BELT

Insurers hammer the leafy suburbs

Premium risks, page 4



## LOST CHORDS

The successes of musical plagiarism

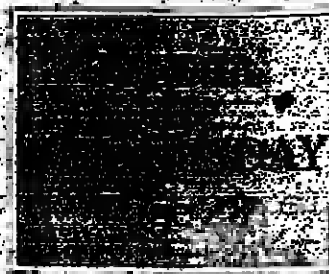
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## TESTING TIME

Patten faces Tory unease on schools

Collision course, pages 2, 7



## Drivers' strike will add to rail misery

By Philip Bassett  
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

TRAIN drivers are expected today to vote for strike action on British Rail in addition to another one-day strike on Friday week declared by the main rail union yesterday. The double strike blow for British Rail comes as firefighters' leaders confirmed they would be recommending a national strike after meeting local authority employers. Rolls-Royce shop stewards meet today to consider strike action over jobs. British Rail managers believe members of the



16,000-strong drivers' union Aslef have voted for strikes over privatisation. In ballot results due to be announced by the union today, BR is bracing itself for a double dispute on the railways, which could throw train services into chaos if strikes are called by Aslef and the main RMT rail union for different days. Two separate disputes will increase pressure on BR for tougher action against strikers and their unions, possibly including moves against BR's maintenance of the check-off system under which union subscriptions are automatic. Continued on page 2, col 6

## Empty crisp packet costs jobless litterbug £1,200 fine

By A Staff Reporter

UNEMPLOYED Vaughan Watkins, 20, was yesterday fined £1,200 under the much-criticised new means-testing system after being found guilty of tossing an empty crisp packet and other litter from his car.

The case will almost certainly add momentum to the campaign by disgruntled magistrates for re-examination of the system, introduced under the Criminal Justice Act last year. Watkins had failed to disclose details of his income.

The penalty was imposed after magistrates heard that an off-duty policeman saw Watkins throw the packet, a soft-drinks can and a paper bag on to the road while his Vauxhall Nova was parked just ten yards from a litterbin in Cwmbran, Gwent.

John Williams, prosecuting, said that PC Alan Jones was subjected to vulgar abuse when he asked Watkins if he intended picking up his litter. Constable Jones then identified himself and produced his warrant card. Watkins was cautioned but, far from being chastened, again became abusive and was arrested.

Cwmbran magistrates decided that the severity of the offences warranted 12 units under the new scheme and fined Watkins £100 on each. He had failed to complete the means-testing form.

Watkins said he was "staggered" by the size of the fine, adding: "It's absolutely ridiculous - that's got to be the most expensive packet of crisps ever eaten. The best I can say is that the law must be confused, but at worst it's totally appalling."

"I am unemployed and I have no savings, so I don't know how I could be expected to pay back a fine like this. I know it's wrong to drop litter, but so many people do it I can't understand why I should be so different."

# UN rescue trucks turned away empty by Muslims

As Muslims turned back refugee trucks for their own people, divisions grew between America and Europe on how to settle the war in Bosnia

FROM TIM JUDAH  
AND DESSA TREVISAN  
IN BELGRADE

MUSLIM leaders in the besieged Bosnian town of Srebrenica yesterday turned away United Nations lorries which had arrived to begin rescuing 15,000 wounded and starving victims of a year's fighting.

Their refusal came as UN peace talks in Sarajevo collapsed and a split widened between the United States and Europe on providing arms to the Bosnian Muslims.

The authorities in Srebrenica fear that evacuating Muslims will help to further the attacking Serbs' policy of so-called ethnic cleansing and that once the most vulnerable have left the town a brutal final offensive will begin. They demanded that the UN supply a battalion of peacekeepers and fly wounded soldiers out of the area.

The UN denies helping Serbian policy, saying that Srebrenica is about to fall and that it is only trying to save lives. The convoy was turned back despite clearance on Monday from the Bosnian president Alija Izetbegovic for the UN to begin evacuating some 15,000 desperate civilians. When another UN convoy was refused permission to evacuate victims on Sunday, witnesses spoke of "terrible scenes" when people realised they were not going to get out.

The UN-sponsored talks between Croat, Serb and Muslim military chiefs in Sarajevo collapsed a year to the day after the siege of the Bosnian capital began. They were due to discuss the turning of the present crumbling ceasefire into a proper truce and into agreements on military disengagement. Sefer Halilovic, the head of the mainly Muslim Bosnian army, said that he would not attend because of "the unbelievable continuation of the aggression on Srebrenica".

The town's agony continued amid divisions between Washington and its European allies. America said this week it may propose lifting the arms embargo on Bosnia. If the Serbs refuse to sign the peace plan drawn up by Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen. The sugges-

tion was rejected immediately yesterday by European Community foreign ministers meeting in Luxembourg.

Britain and France, which have most of the troops in Bosnia delivering aid, are worried that lifting the embargo would place their soldiers in danger and lead to more killing. The United States has no forces in Bosnia.

Niels Helveg Petersen, foreign minister of Denmark, which holds the EC presidency, said yesterday the Community might take independent action on sanctions if the UN could not agree on enhanced measures, a suggestion which diplomats said showed the increasing sense of desperation over Bosnia. "Talking about unilateral action without the legal and moral authority of the UN is putting us on dangerous ground," one European diplomat said in Brussels.

There are also problems at the United Nations. The security council has postponed voting on a resolution tightening sanctions against Serbia and its tiny ally Montenegro - which make up the rump Yugoslav state - until next week. The allies also disagree about how to enforce the peace plan should it be agreed, and are having trouble putting together a force of up to 75,000 troops for the job.

Lord Owen said that if the Bosnian Serbs were allowed to create a greater Serbia through the all-Serbian assembly to be held in a fortnight, "it would be a tragedy of very major proportions". He demanded further international pressure on the Bosnian Serbs to sign his peace plan. The Foreign Office agreed it was "essential" that the Serbs accepted the plan.

David Howell, chairman of the all-party Commons foreign affairs committee, described the "horror" of Srebrenica as a turning point. Although he had previously cautioned against military action, he said he now reluctantly believed that military intervention would be necessary in eastern Bosnia, involving a much more direct assault on Serbian airfields.

Towards arms, page 8  
Roger Boyes, page 14



£3,750 fine: Michel Mesnage, centre, John Greenfield, his solicitor, and an interpreter leaving the court

## French trawler skipper 'let off lightly'

FROM NICHOLAS WATT  
IN ST PETER PORT

MICHEL Mesnage, the skipper of a French trawler, was yesterday fined £3,750 after admitting fishing illegally in British waters and disobeying the orders of a sea fisheries officer. Mesnage, whose vessel, *La Calypso*, was intercepted by the Royal Navy last

Friday, was told by Guernsey magistrates that he was lucky to escape more serious charges.

Mesnage, 41, from Birx in Normandy, strayed into British waters off Alderney. When officers from the minesweeper HMS Brocksby, which was patrolling the six-mile fishing limit, boarded *La Calypso*, the skipper ignored their orders to make for St Peter

Port and headed instead for Cherbourg with the officers still on board.

Graham de Vic Carey, the island's deputy bailiff, said he was prepared to take a lenient view of a first offence which could have earned a £50,000 fine. As Mesnage left the court he said the fine was fair and reasonable.

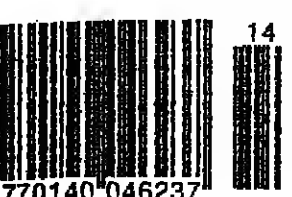
Bailiffur hurdle, page 10

## Judge to head racing enquiry

A High Court judge, Sir Michael Connell, 53, who is a Jockey Club member, will lead the club's three-man committee of enquiry into the Grand National fiasco. Page 37

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## House price rise and car sales point to recovery

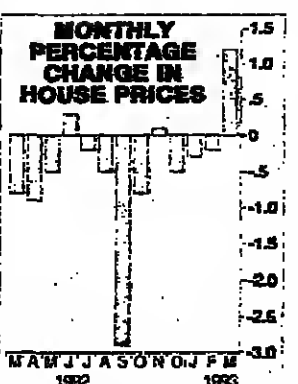
By IAN MURRAY

THE biggest jump in house prices for four years and a sixth successive month of increased car sales gave clear indications yesterday that the recession was coming to an end.

These signs of growth appeared to give backing to last week's claim by Robin Leigh-Pemberton, governor of the Bank of England, that the British economy had "in all probability" now turned the corner.

Halifax, Britain's largest building society, reported a 1.2 per cent rise in house prices during March. Last week the Nationwide reported a similar rise and claimed that prices had stabilised since November.

Further evidence of improvement in house sales has come from the Building Societies Association, which says that lending in February was up 40 per cent on last year. The improved market means that agents are looking forward eagerly to the Easter weekend, which traditionally



marks the start of the house-buying season.

The 12.7 per cent increase in car sales during March means that manufacturers are now hopeful that three bleak years of recession are over. In the first three months of the year a total of 453,261 new cars were registered, an increase of 11.58 per cent over the first quarter of last year, which was one of the worst on record.

Despite the marked improvement, there is still extreme caution about fore-

casting the speed of recovery. Gary Marsh, head of research at Halifax, warned that several months of strong activity and stable or rising prices were needed before there could be confidence that a sustained upturn was under way. Nationwide figures show prices rose by 1 per cent in January and then fell by 1.4 per cent in February, indicating that there is still an underlying volatility in the market.

Roger King of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, said the March sales were 27 per cent lower than in 1989, when they reached a record annual figure of 2.3 million. Even newly revised projections for this year expect at the most 1.8 million sales.

Meanwhile Ford last night cut the price of its new Mondeo car by an average of £1,000 only two weeks after it was launched in Britain to replace the ageing Sierra. The company also promised to refund an estimated £3 million to customers who bought the car when it was unveiled in showrooms on March 25 but at significantly higher prices.

## DAF in danger as court backs supplier

By Patricia Tehan

THE British operations of Leyland DAF face closure next week after three Appeal Court judges yesterday refused to force a key supplier to continue providing clutches and brakes.

The judges ruling supported last week's High Court decision in favour of suppliers Autogative Products. Last night "the receivers from accounting firm Arthur Andersen said they will continue their fight to keep the company going."

They said that production would continue at least until after Easter and 3,311 jobs directly at stake were safe until then. But once production is halted there is no guarantee that it can be restarted.

The receivers are considering applying to the House of Lords for leave to appeal. A spokesman said they were "disappointed" by the ruling and were reviewing their options. Dr John White, chairman of BBA, AP's parent company, said last night he hopes his advisers can sit down with the

receivers to find a way to re-establish a basis on which to supply Leyland. He said: "I have always wanted to try and ensure continuity of supply to secure the future of Leyland, but that the receivers started the action. Murdoch McKillop, one of the joint receivers said: 'We are still fighting to find a solution.'"

AP is owed £758,000 by Leyland DAF and is refusing to deliver until it is paid money owed for parts supplied before the company went into receivership in February. Most of the other suppliers have agreed to continue deliveries even though they are estimated to be owed a total of £82 million.

Leyland has already cut 2,500 jobs since the Anglo-Dutch DAF group broke up. John Allen, chief negotiator for the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, said: "This is disastrous. We can now expect the whole of Leyland to close after Easter, and 3,000 workers will needlessly be laid off. We appeal to AP to continue their supply."

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Suburban householders must pay up to 60% more for cover.

# Contents insurance hits the roof

By LINDSAY COOK  
MONEY EDITOR

CONTENTS insurance premiums for families living in four and five-bedroom houses are to rise by as much as 60 per cent, partly because burglars have switched their attentions from the inner cities to the suburbs and rural areas. From next month, Abbey National will increase insurance premiums by an average of 37 per cent to take account of claims experience; overall, premiums were expected to rise by an average of 15 per cent this year, following an average increase in premiums of 15 per cent last year.

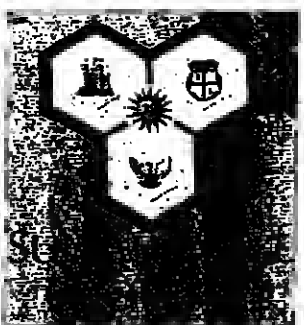
However, the average premium increases disguise changes in the demographics of theft. A rise in insurance claims for larger homes outside large towns has been faster than for those in built-up areas.

Insurers charge premiums according to the post code of the property, and many people living in properties previously regarded as low risk are facing huge increases, particularly if they have made a number of similar claims in recent years. Companies reserve the right to

charge individual home-owners more than others in their area and may insist that they pay the first £100 or more of each claim for theft.

Insurers paid out £749 million last year for burglary claims — an increase of 27 per cent.

Those hardest hit by the Abbey National's increase are people living in five-bedroom



properties in area ten. Abbey National's lowest rating. This covers the outskirts of towns and cities such as Lancaster, Ipswich, Plymouth, Reading and Inverness, and more rural areas.

The premiums for basic cover have been increased by a lower rate than those that also

cover accidental damage or the loss or theft of personal possessions such as watches, portable computers, cameras or golf clubs when they are taken away from the home.

A spokesman for Abbey National said: "Crime in inner cities is now being displaced to rural areas, which tend not to have Neighbourhood Watch or such tight security measures and are therefore more exposed. Crime is falling in the inner cities."

A spokesman for the Association of British Insurers (ABI) said that leading insurers expected premiums to rise by about 10 per cent this year but that some areas would see much larger increases. "Just as burglars have found that electrical retailers in inner cities have metal shutters, but that those 50 miles out do not because the local authorities do not let them, that is happening on the domestic front as well."

Royal Insurance increased its contents premiums by an average of 15 per cent last year. Jeff Kehoe, at Sun Alliance, said premiums rose by an average of 25 per cent last year. The cheapest areas are

rural suburbs of Aberdeen, York, Gloucester and Lancaster. These cost £3.50 per £1,000 of property covered. In inner cities, the cost rises to £15 per £1,000.

Legal & General last increased premiums in August last year, by an average of 12 per cent, although some premiums went up by 40 per cent. The company reviewed



premiums in March and decided not to make a further increase. But it said: "We see a probable need to increase rates before the end of the year."

Last year, policies charged according to the number of bedrooms doubled in some cases. That was because the policies were attractive to people with a lot of expensive possessions, who then made greater claims than expected by the insurance companies.

Legal & General increased such premiums by an average of 40 per cent.

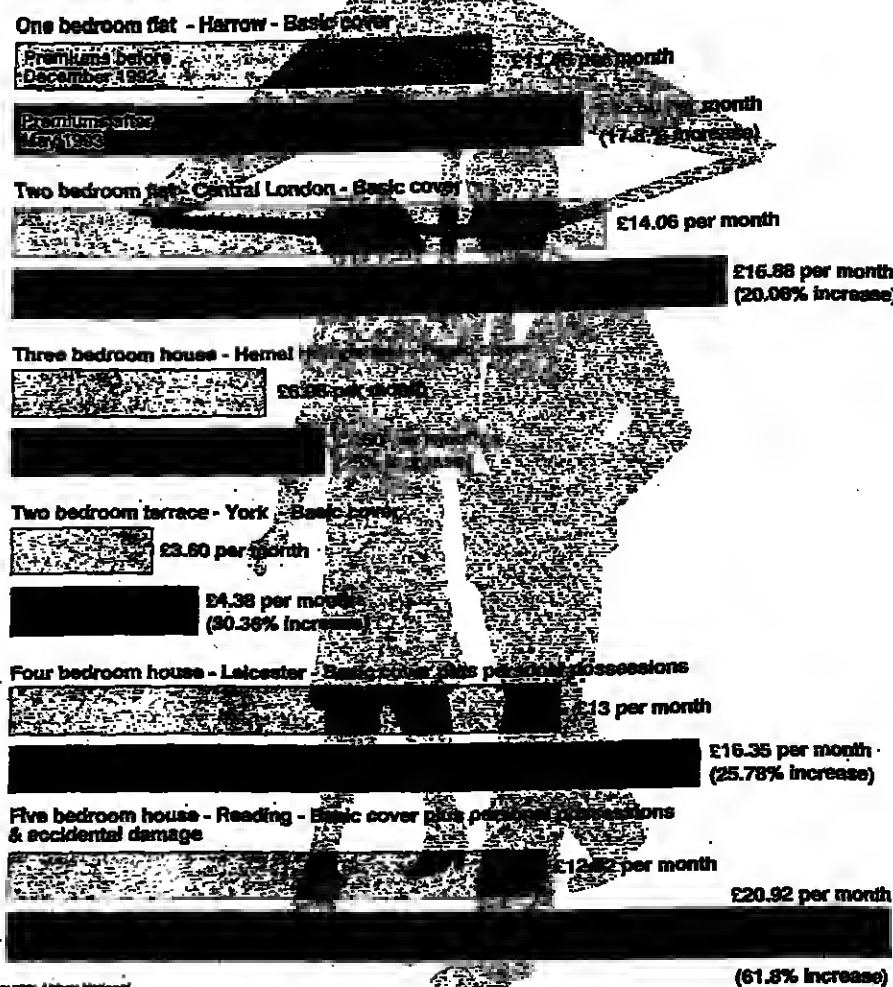
For many of Abbey National's customers, it is the first increase in contents insurance premiums since 1990. Those whose policies have been renewed since December last year saw premiums rise by an average of 10 per cent and at their next renewal will pay an average increase of 27 per cent.

About 200,000 of Abbey National's 1.3 million borrowers have contents insurance arranged by their lender.

Woolwich Building Society increased its premiums on March 15 by an average of 50 per cent. It had last increased rates in May 1992. The Halifax Building Society, the largest mortgage lender, last increased contents premiums in October by an average of 14 per cent.

Insurers are concerned that the high price of cover may deter people from taking out contents cover. In high-risk areas, up to 40 per cent of households have no insurance. It is not unusual for contents premiums to cost £1,000 a year in London and other cities.

## HOW THE PREMIUMS RISE



## Better security can cut premium costs

By OUR MONEY EDITOR

HOMESOWNERS facing higher insurance premiums can cut the cost by agreeing to pay the first £100 or even £1,000 of every claim. Membership of Neighbourhood Watch schemes, installing security locks and burglar alarms can also cut the premiums.

Insurance companies are aware that customers are pretty close to their tolerance level for insurance premiums, particularly in inner cities. They are also keen to encourage careful customers to continue to insure. In recent years, some have begun to offer no-claims and loyalty bonuses to policyholders.

Those who are willing to pay a proportion of every claim — above the standard £50 excess — can reduce the premiums substantially.

At General Accident, agreeing to pay the first £250 will earn a 20 per cent discount on the annual contents premiums. The company will also consider larger excesses. At Sun Alliance and Royal Insurance, discounts are also available for larger excesses, but these have to be negotiated individually.

The average theft claim is £800, although claims for fires and burst pipes can top £40,000 or £50,000 for large homes. Norwich Union offers

a 10 per cent discount to householders who have not made a claim for three years. This is in addition to the 10 per cent discount introduced last July for those who have held a policy for three consecutive years.

Royal Insurance was the first to offer discounts for security measures. These range from 5 to 25 per cent. The lower level is for membership of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme and for large discounts, approved burglar alarms have to be used.

Sun Alliance offers security discounts of 10 per cent to 15 per cent.

Older homeowners can also get discounts on contents insurance. This is because there is more likely to be someone in the house during the day when most burglaries occur and there are less likely to be children in the house to cause accidental damage.

Homeowners who receive a discount for security measures must use the locks. The policies may not pay out if windows are left unlocked overnight or when the owners are away from the house.

Insurance brokers who sell only by telephone, such as the Royal Bank of Scotland subsidiary Direct Line, have been undercutting competitors with big networks to support.

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## Farmers set for invasion by hippies

By JAMIE DEITMER

FARMERS and landowners in Wales were yesterday urged to block access to fields to avoid an Easter holiday invasion by New Age travellers and hippies.

Bob Parry, president of the Farmers' Union of Wales, issued a warning to members as police monitored the movements of a 45-strong travellers' convoy near the Shropshire border.

Police fear that the convoy, which has set up an illegal camp on land near the village of Pen-y-bont, Clwyd, near Welshpool, will soon be joined by other travellers. Last summer, more than 8,000 travellers caused mayhem during an illegal "rave" party on private farmland 25 miles away at Kerry, Powys.

The owner of the land at Pen-y-bont has started the lengthy legal process to move the convoy and yesterday local authority, councillors and a gypsy liaison officer met representatives from the convoy in an effort to persuade them to move on from the disputed coal yard they are occupying.

Mr Parry said: "We would urge all farmers to take immediate action to block off all entrances to their land to try to keep these people out. We are only days away from Easter and we suspect these people will soon be joined by their friends."

Last week, Home Office ministers announced their intention to grant police new powers against travellers, ravers and itinerants. Police will be allowed to break up convoys of six vehicles or more and impose a five-mile exclusion zone around illegal "rave" sites. It is also intended to make trespass a criminal offence.

## British test pinpoints bacteria

By NICK NUTTALL  
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

A WAY of directly detecting the presence and site of bacterial infection in the body has been developed by British medical researchers.

The imaging technique could lead to a faster, safer way of diagnosing and treating patients undergoing harmful bacterial attack. It could be particularly vital for helping people whose immune systems have been attacked by cancer or Aids.

Conventional ways of detecting bacterial infections often require medical staff to handle patients' blood, putting them at risk of exposure to disease. The new technique works without doctors having to remove blood and could also save money by ensuring the correct drugs are used.

The method, described at the British Nuclear Medicine Society conference at Imperial College, London, combines tiny amounts of a radioactive metal with an antibiotic.

When injected into the blood, the chemical travels through the body, penetrating disease-causing bacteria, turning them mildly radioactive. These gamma emissions can then be picked up by a detector to show doctors which bacteria are involved and their location.

The technique has been devised by Kishor Solanki at St. Bartholomew's hospital and patented by the British Technology Group. It has been tested on 35 patients with approximately 90 per cent accuracy.

At the moment, doctors use a white cell scan method, which is difficult to administer in some patients and can take three days to give a result.

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## Jobless men blame dole for damaging their sex life

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

UNEMPLOYMENT can damage people's love lives, according to a survey published today. A third of those out of work admit they make love less often since losing their jobs.

The poll, claimed to be the biggest among unemployed people, examines the personal and social impact of joblessness as well as what the unemployed think of politicians, the royal family and other public figures.

It is based on more than 3,000 replies to a survey form distributed to the unemployed by the newspaper *Jobsearch UK*, which is a nationwide guide to jobs and training, and attempts to portray the average unemployed person in 1993.

The survey finds that he (most of the respondents are men) is 35 and married with two children. He owns his own home but is having difficulty paying the mortgage. He blames the Thatcher government and the world recession equally for being out of work, feels let down by John Major's government, does not think it either understands or cares about his plight, does not believe a Labour government would have cared any more and, if he voted Conservative in the last general election, will not do so again.

Three-fifths of the unemployed say that being out of work has not damaged their relationships with their partners, half of whom are still employed full time. Two-thirds say their partners have the same amount of admiration and respect for them since they lost their jobs. Half say being unemployed has not affected their love lives, but a third say they and their partners make love less often since being out of work. Seven per cent say they no longer make love, while 11 per cent claim their sex life has improved.

Regionally, the impact of unemployment on people's sex lives is worst in Scotland, where half those out of work say they make love less frequently and 30 per cent say they no longer make love at all. In contrast, three in ten people out of work in Yorkshire say they now make love more often.

Also in Scotland, 89 per cent of the unemployed say they are more likely to have arguments with their partners, compared with a UK average of 46 per cent.

Three-fifths of the unemployed say they have suffered from depression since being out of work, and the same proportion say they find visiting a social security office a humiliating experience. Looking for a job is a full time occupation; 45 per cent say they spend four hours every day trying to find work, and a further 24 per cent put the time at eight hours.

Ninety-four per cent feel that good-looking people — both men and women — are more likely to be selected for a job at an interview.

In addition to the answers to the poll questions, the survey gave the unemployed unprompted opportunities to say who they found were the most irritating, caring and least caring politicians, and who they would most like to swap places with if they could.

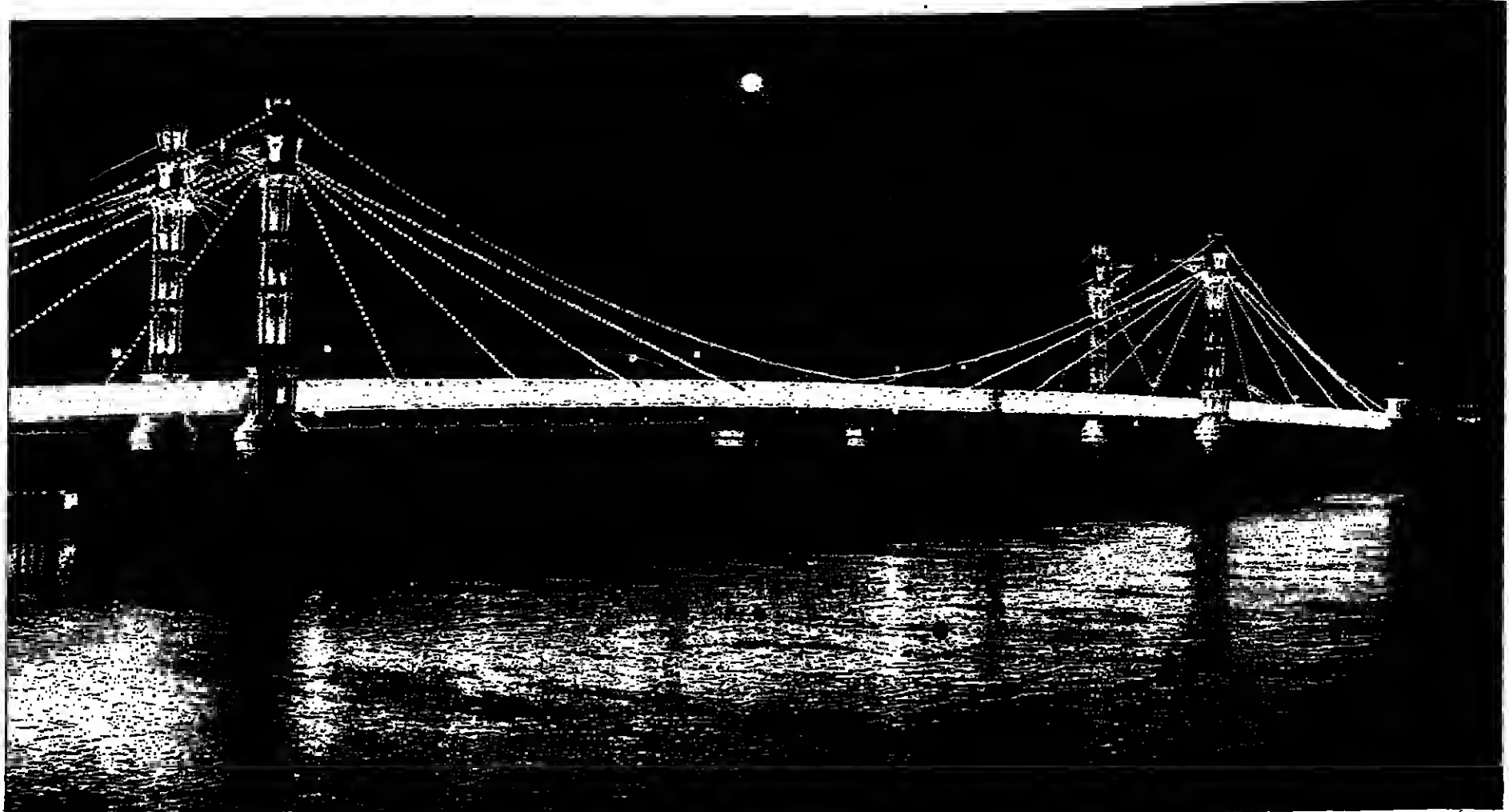
John Major was seen as the most irritating politician and was equal third as both the most and least caring among political leaders. His predecessor, Baroness Thatcher, was the least caring politician by a large majority. Richard Branson, of the Virgin empire, was the most popular choice for a life swap, followed by the racing driver Nigel Mansell.

Mr John, President Clinton and the veteran pop singer Cliff Richard.

The employment department said it was always interested in the findings of surveys about unemployed people, but was not sure it was helpful to see the unemployed as averages. It recognised the real difficulties of unemployed people, which was why it was increasing the help available for the unemployed.

## 120 years on, a bridge that should have fallen down defies its critics

DEB JENSON



A star at night: the Albert Bridge in London is 120 years old and suffering from so much metal fatigue that it should have fallen down by now, according to experts. Instead it has won an award for one of the most modern and efficient lighting systems in Britain (Ian Murray writes). The certificate of commendation, awarded by the Lighting Industry

Federation, is in the best innovative traditions of the bridge, which has long delighted conservationists and been the curse of road engineers. Although its ornate design now epitomises the Victorian era, it was in the vanguard of bridge construction techniques when it was started in 1871. Within 11 years of its 1873 opening, engineers were questioning its

strength. By 1906, London County Council described its condition as unsatisfactory. A 1935 report said there were "strains of considerable magnitude" but not until 1972 did the Greater London Council (GLC) agree to spend £500,000 on repairs, replacing the wooden deck. A two-ton weight limit was imposed on vehicles. A year later, the GLC wanted to close it permanently.

But Albert Bridge survived and still plays its part in shifting London's commuter population across the river. It was given another facelift and a new lighting system 18 months ago, with over 3,000 low voltage tungsten halogen lamps that highlight the web of suspension bars. They burn 58 per cent less electricity and at the same time last much longer, so the

bridge will only need to be closed once every other year, instead of every six months, to replace bulbs that burn out. North Bridge in Edinburgh is also highly commended but the overall winner for exterior lighting is Courthouse Square in Bradford. Awards will be presented today at the Savoy Hotel by Dr Mary Archer, who chairs the National Energy Council.

## Robot cameras join revamp of BBC news

By Alexandra Frean, Media Correspondent

THE BBC is to revamp the format of its television news programmes next week to try to fight off competition from Independent Television News and cable and satellite broadcasters.

The £650,000 facelift, based largely on presentation gimmicks, is intended to imprint the BBC "brand name" clearly on all breakfast, lunchtime and evening news bulletins. News studios will exist in a world of virtual reality with

decks, lights, backdrops and floors being computer-generated images. The only real thing left in the studio will be the presenters and robotically controlled cameras.

Peter Bell, news programmes editor at BBC television, said the new look, to be unveiled on Tuesday, would make the corporation more competitive by emphasising the "BBC-ness" of its news programmes. "We have tried to come up with a fairly feel so that people will know immediately that they're watching a BBC News programme, but

without undermining the idea that individual programmes have loyal audiences and should have a distinctive flavour," he said.

In a parallel move to boost ratings, the BBC has signed John Tusa, the former World Service head, and Edward Stourton, ITN's former diplomatic editor, to present the *One O'Clock News*. The new presenters, who go on air next Tuesday, will place greater emphasis on covering breaking stories and on live interviews.

The BBC will retain its

familiar lozenge-shaped logo for its new look news programmes, but the rest of the presentation will change dramatically, starting with an opening sequence showing a computer-generated image of the globe and a three-dimensional version of the corporation's coat of arms.

The BBC, which says this is the first news revamp for five years, is hoping that the changes will help it to win back some of the ground it has lost to ITN's *News at Ten*, which was relunched last November. The BBC's One

and Six O'Clock news programmes are well ahead of their rivals on ITN, with audiences of 3.9 million and 7.6 million respectively. But, in the first ten weeks of this year, the *Nine O'Clock News* has averaged 500,000 viewers fewer than *News at Ten*, which attracts 7.1 million.

By reducing production staff, using a single studio for all broadcasts and drawing heavily from a new data base of computer graphics for its maps, graphics and headlines, the BBC hopes to recoup the cost in three to four years.

## Dairy raid rewards offered

Rewards totalling £6,000, including one from an unnamed farmer, have been offered for the capture of armed robbers who shot two police officers after a robbery at a Unigate dairy in Poole, Dorset, last Saturday.

PC Charlie Dale, 36, and PC Steven Hogarth, 34, had surgery to remove shotgun pellets after the robbers fired at them from a getaway car that they had intercepted. The gang escaped with £10,000.

A £25,000 reward was offered for information on three armed robbers who kidnapped two Group 4 security guards at gunpoint in Hertford last Friday and stole "a substantial amount" of cash.

## Robbers flee

A security clampdown was ordered at the Bank of Scotland in Uddingston near Glasgow after it was robbed for the second day running and in almost identical circumstances. In both cases the thieves fled red-handed after a dye device was activated.

## Suicide inquest

Edward Smith, 80, a former estate manager, hanged himself at his home in Colemore, Hampshire, after mistakenly thinking he was responsible for a minor car accident, an inquest at Portsmouth was told. Verdict: suicide.

## Cannabis haul

The drug squad seized 100 kilograms of cannabis worth £250,000 in a raid at a service station on the M6 at Corley, Warwickshire, after trailing two cars from east London.

## Jeans seized

Some 5,000 pairs of counterfeit Levi jeans with a street value of more than £100,000 have been seized in raids on warehouses by West Midlands trading standards officers.

## Mayor attacked

A gang of youths threatened Malcolm Wood, the lord mayor of Nottingham, and slashed the tyres of his civic Bentley after a city council meeting.

## Driver killed

Danny Gales, 19, of Woolwich, south London, died after crashing a stolen high-performance Ford Escort while being pursued by a police car.

## Cotton tale

Police investigating reports of drifting snow on the M6 in Staffordshire found a lorry had lost its load of 12 tons of raw cotton.

## School blaze

Arsonists are being blamed for a fire that caused £1 million of damage at Manor High School, Crosby, Merseyside.

## Inspector cries foul over cheap fish tails

By John Young

SCAMPI, scarcely known in Britain a generation ago but now a common dish in cafes, is to have its credentials challenged. "Real" scampi should consist of the tails of Dublin Bay prawns, fried in batter. But Paul Galland, Gloucestershire's county trading standards officer, suspects that much of what is sold as scampi is actually bits of other fish, minced and bound together with starch or cereal.

He believes that to distinguish it from the genuine article, it should be described as "reformed scampi". Real scampi should cost between £5 and £7 a serving, and anything sold for significantly less was suspect.

After a complaint by a visiting clergyman on holiday, hundreds of pubs and restaurants in Gloucestershire received a notice warning them to observe the distinction. They can expect visits from trading standards officers and be fined for misdescription if they fail to comply with the ruling. One man has already been fined £400 and others have been issued with court summonses.

Mr Galland said: "Reformed scampi is usually very small fish, the tails of which are removed by water pressure jet, minced and soaked in polyphosphate. This product bears no relation to the genuine scampi tail. Customers should be told on the menu what they are purchasing. It is unfair that retailers selling the genuine product are put at a commercial disadvantage."

The claim that more than 90 per cent of scampi sold in Britain is actually the reformed variety was greeted with scepticism by Chris Lettwin, chief inspector of the Fishmongers Company. Some years ago, so-called scampi did sometimes consist of minced fish such as monkfish, but that was now a delicacy, he said. Most scampi came from a few large suppliers, who would not risk their reputations by passing off a cheap substitute as the real thing.

## Dogs sense epileptic fits 'before owners'

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

SOME dogs can detect when their owners are about to suffer an epileptic fit, according to a vet.

Andrew Edney says in the present edition of the *Veterinary Record* that the ability might prove useful not only in epilepsy but in other illnesses, including diabetes and heart disease. Mr Edney, from Leicester, says that how the dogs sense fits before they happen remains a mystery, but is probably a result of their acute powers of observation.

"Dogs can detect tiny changes in behaviour which would not be noted by most humans. Many dog owners will have observed that their dog is capable of detecting when they are going away, even though they believe they have not given any signals."

Mr Edney has collected data on 37 dogs in Britain

which their owners say respond to seizures. The dogs look anxious, become restless, and either alert others in the vicinity or go in search of help when fits are imminent. Normally obedient dogs become badly behaved, barking, whining and jumping up.

Some become very attentive, licking the face and hands and encouraging the subject to lie down or move to a safe place. They often stand guard during the fit. The dogs cannot be fooled, ignoring false seizure attempts by their owners. The best performers appear to be working dogs, with gun dogs and terriers also featuring quite strongly.

Mr Edney speculates that distinctive odours or the electrical disturbances that accompany epileptic fits could be the clue to the phenomenon. But keen observation is an equally likely reason.

## Hero's desk for sale



Top drawer: this Regency mahogany desk made for the first Marquess of Anglesey, famous for his heroism at Waterloo in 1815 and his 18 children, is expected to make up to £600,000 at Christie's in London on July 8.

The desk is being sold by the executors of the late Sir John Musker, the race-horse owner and breeder, the day took off his leg, prompting a classic exchange with the Duke of Wellington. Looking down in surprise, he said: "By God sir, I've lost my leg." The duke replied: "By God sir, so you have!"

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## Republicans force Clinton to trim recovery package

■ Bill Clinton is in the unusual position of talking down the recovery to ensure the passage of his economic legislation

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton is being forced to scale back the \$16 billion (\$10.5 billion) economic recovery package, one of the centrepieces of his economic programme, in what amounts to his first serious setback in Congress.

The move follows a nine-day filibuster by Republican senators and three failed attempts by the Democrat majority to force a vote. For the Republicans, who are in a minority in both Congressional chambers, the administration's willingness to compromise on a significant area of policy amounts to their most significant success in Congress so far since the inauguration.

Robert Dole, the Republican minority leader in the Senate, has already given warning that they may repeat such tactics to block other Democratic prestige legislation. Filibusters are a parliamentary device that allows a minority to block a vote, and under Senate rules can only be stopped with a majority of at least 60 in the 100-strong

Senate. With only 57 senators on their side, minus one, Senator Richard Shelby of Alabama, with whom the White House is in constant state of battle, the Democrats fall short of this threshold.

The president yesterday vowed to continue the fight for the recovery package. He told journalists: "The American people, I am sure, are disappointed to find that a programme that would put a half million people to work and that has the support of the majority of the Senate cannot be brought to a vote because democracy and majority rule is being undermined."

Mr Clinton has gone to great lengths to push his spending package, which Republicans denounce as pork barrel spending. Democrats and Republicans have so far been only able to agree to end the filibuster in order to pass an increase in the federal debt burden, without which the government would be insolvent. Congress now begins an 11-day Easter break, during

which Senate leaders will negotiate some aspects of the package.

The Democrats are understood to have offered \$1.8 billion in cuts. The main criticism of the package is that it could turn out to be superfluous, since the US economy is already showing signs of recovery. This has led to the bizarre situation that the president and his team are talking down the significance of the recovery in order to preserve the case for the stimulus.

□ Peace plea: Mr Clinton, hoping to win Arab support for renewed Middle East peace talks, met President Mubarak of Egypt yesterday in Washington to offer assurances of a balanced American approach to defusing the region's problems. (Reuters)



False start: Michael Foale, a British astronaut from Cambridge, waving as he set off yesterday for the Discovery's eight-day mission. Take-off was aborted

## Computers ground second shuttle

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

FOR the second time in as many weeks, the launch of an American space shuttle was aborted moments before take-off yesterday when computers automatically grounded Discovery after detecting an open valve.

The engines of the Discovery were five seconds away from igniting at 2.32 yesterday morning when on-board computers located the fault. The countdown was stopped 11 seconds before the scheduled lift-off.

Stuart McCung, a NASA engineer, said that if the shuttle had blasted off with a valve open, hydrogen fuel might have leaked out and caused an explosion. "The system worked just like it was supposed to — again," he said. A similar hitch occurred on March 22, when the launch of the Columbia shuttle was aborted just three seconds before take-off.

The Discovery was supposed to make an eight-day science mission to examine the ozone layer. Brewster Shaw, the deputy director of the programme, said yesterday that another launch attempt would not be made before tomorrow. A longer

delay could affect the scientific results of the mission, which will collect atmospheric information above the Earth's northern latitudes during the short winter-spring transition period now under way.

As soon as the countdown was stopped, NASA engineers moved quickly to pump the volatile fuel from the shuttle's external tanks. Forty-five minutes later the five astronauts, four men and a woman, emerged.

Nasa had intended to launch about eight missions in 1993, but so far this year only one shuttle has been put into orbit. The launch of Columbia has been delayed until later this month.

Even before yesterday's aborted take-off, Thomas Utsman, the shuttle director, acknowledged that the agency has hit "a surge" of problems. "What's behind it?" he said. "Human factor."

Lisa Malone, an agency spokeswoman, said: "We do have some indications of a possible instrumentation problem in the main propulsion system." The findings of an investigative board are expected to be released later this month.

## De Niro need not pay maintenance

BY BEN MACINTYRE

A COURT in Los Angeles has ruled that the actor Robert De Niro is under no obligation to pay child support for the daughter of a nightclub singer who claimed that, although he might not have been the child's father, he acted as though he were.

The singer, Helena Lisandrello, met Mr De Niro at a Hollywood party in 1979 and began a long relationship with him. In 1983 she gave birth to a daughter, who was named Nina. In August last year she sued the actor, who has won Academy Awards for his roles in *Raging Bull* and *The Godfather II*, for \$10,000 (£6,500) a month in child support. She also claimed legal fees in excess of \$100,000.

Under a court order Mr De Niro, 49, has been paying her \$2,500 a month since last September, but three court-ordered blood tests subsequently showed that he was not the girl's biological father. Ms Lisandrello, 31, none the

less contended that, because De Niro had told Nina he was her father and treated her as such, he should pay child support as her "putative father". The child's genuine father is unknown. The category of "putative parenthood" is a new, if not unique one in the increasingly acrimonious world of American child-custody litigation.



De Niro: paid \$2,500 a month to support child

## Farrow branded Allen as 'Devil'

FROM OUR NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT

A former nanny for the children of Mia Farrow gave evidence this week that the actress was a moody, self-obsessed mother, who treated her biological children more kindly than her adopted children and once slapped one of them because he could not find a dog leash.

As the child custody battle between Mia Farrow and Woody Allen entered its third vituperative week, Mr Allen's lawyers sought to portray Ms Farrow as a hysterical and even violent parent and Mr Allen as a calming influence on the fractured family.

Monica Thompson, who worked for the couple for eight years, told the Manhattan state supreme court that Ms Farrow had told her children that Mr Allen was "the Devil" after she found out about his affair with Soon-Yi Previn, 22, her adopted daughter. Ms Thompson admitted she lied to Connecticut police last year when she told them that Ms Farrow was a good mother because she was afraid of losing her job.

At the time police were investigating Ms Farrow's allegations that Mr Allen, her lover of more than a dozen years, had sexually abused their adopted daughter Dylan, now seven. Mr Allen and his lawyers say that a team of child abuse experts has cleared him of those allegations, and no charges have been brought.

Ms Farrow has four of her own offspring and seven adopted children. The custody dispute is over the three she shares with Mr Allen: Dylan, Moses, 15,

and their biological son Satchel, five.

Ms Thompson, who is no longer employed by Ms Farrow, 48, said the actress treated her adopted children markedly worse than the others, creating resentment within the family.

A friend and former assistant of Mr Allen, Jane Read Martin, also gave evidence that one of Ms Farrow's adopted children, Lark, was treated "like a little slavery maid" and made to fetch and carry, cook and baby-sit the younger children.

"She clearly resented it," Ms Martin said. "She felt put upon." Mr Allen's lawyers also alleged that Ms Farrow was more concerned with exacting vengeance on her former lover than ensuring the well-being of her children.

Ms Thompson testified that the actress appeared "happy and jolly" after Dylan recounted to police the accusations that Mr Allen had abused her. "Everything is all set," Ms Thompson recalled Ms Farrow saying.

Mr Allen's lawyer, Ethan Abramowitz, said the statement indicated Ms Farrow was planning to frame Mr Allen. "Obviously if Dylan had really been abused, she would not have been happy — she would have reacted differently," he said later.

Meanwhile a series of witnesses for Mr Allen described him as a loving, attentive father who enjoyed playing with his children and never lost his temper or spoke badly of Ms Farrow — despite their dreadful relationship.

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## Corruption warnings rock top Italian party

FROM PHILIP PULLELLA IN ROME

GAETANO Amendola, personal secretary of Arnaldo Forlani, the former Italian prime minister, was arrested yesterday as the country's growing corruption scandal sent shock waves through Italy's dominant Christian Democratic party (DC). Signor Amendola is alleged to have collected about 1.2 billion lire (£500,000) in bribes, judicial sources said.

His arrest came just a day after Signor Forlani himself was notified that he was under investigation in the huge bribery scandal that has now struck at the heart of Italy's largest party. In less than ten hours on Monday, magistrates in Milan and Rome issued corruption warnings to Signor Forlani, 67, and Giulio Andreotti, 74, another former prime minister.

Both were told that they were the subject of separate enquiries for allegedly breaking the law on funding of political parties, the crime at the core of the scandal. Both are MPs who cannot be tried unless their immunity is waived by parliament.

Magistrates believe that Signor Forlani's wing of the Christian Democrats received bribes from companies in exchange for the award of contracts by Anas, the state road-building authority. Signor Forlani was until last year the secretary of the party, which

has had a stranglehold on power in Italy for 40 years. He denies any wrongdoing.

The centre-right *Il Giornale* said yesterday that the magistrates' warnings "strike at the heart of the old Christian Democratic Party". Journalist Stefano Folli, writing in *Corriere della Sera* in Milan, said: "The DC is trembling and tearing itself to pieces."

The warning to Signor Forlani that he is under investigation appears to mark the definitive end of the so-called CAF (Craxi-Andreotti-Forlani) triumvirate that dominated Italian politics in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Bettino Craxi, the former Socialist leader and prime minister, is also under investigation.

Commentators said that the warnings were particularly destabilising for the Christian Democrats because the party is in the throes of an internal revolt by younger members.

Francesco Cossiga, the former president, yesterday pressed for a decision on his impeachment for treason, saying it was time Italy started tackling more serious problems. Opposition parties in the previous parliament are trying to impeach Signor Cossiga for high treason and violating the constitution through his frequent and colourful attacks on all Italy's institutions during his last two years in power. (Reuters)

## Balladur hits the farming hurdle

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

FRANCE's farmers and fisherman yesterday made it clear to Edouard Balladur, the new prime minister, that there was no chance of letting him off the hook over electoral pledges to support their cause, no matter how much it damaged European unity.

M. Balladur's ear-bashing from leaders of the farm and fishing unions, at his first appointment since organising the centre-right cabinet, brought home an uncomfortable truth for the new regime: the Maastricht quarrel is far from over. With only months in which to make its mark and pave the way to a presidential election in 1995, the government must execute some fast and fancy footwork to avoid foundering on the shoals of European union. Hanging on the outcome are not only the fates of the farmers, but the electoral fortunes of Jacques

Chirac, the Gaullist chief, and his rivals for the succession to François Mitterrand — Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, Michel Rocard and Jacques Delors.

With the Socialist party lying in ruins after its electoral disaster and M. Rocard's seizure of power, French politics face an upheaval which could leave two broad political formations, with the pro-Europeans of the liberal right and moderate left on one side facing an anti-federalist force comprising the Gaullist party and the far left and right. Always the supreme strategist, President Mitterrand is said to be banking on the shift to hand the tenancy of the Elysée Palace to M. Delors rather than M. Chirac or M. Rocard, two men whom he detests.

The cohabitation government won some breathing space from its partners this week after Alain Juppé, the foreign minister, persuaded his EC colleagues that his government needed about a month to clarify its positions. M. Balladur yesterday gave his key ministers, who are at least moderately pro-European, three weeks to come up with proposals.

Their dilemma consists of finding a way to satisfy the farmers that they will fulfil the Gaullist and liberal electoral promises to reject the "Blair House" US-EC accord on farm trade and win a better deal for France in the common agricultural policy without provoking a conflict with the EC.



Balladur left in no doubt by farmers

## Scandal reveals split in Spanish Socialists

FROM JULIA HAYLEY IN MADRID

A DEEP split within Spain's ruling Socialist party appeared yesterday over the extent to which it should shoulder blame for a corruption scandal that is threatening its chances of re-election.

Txiki Benegas, the party's third most senior official, tried to offer himself as a scapegoat for the scandal and so clear the party's name before a general election later this year. But the gesture backfired badly.

Señor Benegas, who is responsible for the day-to-day running of the party, referred in his letter to a lack of solidarity and loyalty within the party.

The newspapers, however, said it had done the Socialists more harm than good. "Far from calming the waters, the letter has just stirred them up more," the daily *El País* said. "For the first time the depth of the rift within the PSOE leadership is on view." This sentiment was echoed by the Catalunya-based paper *La Vanguardia*.

The split is long-standing between Felipe González, the prime minister, and his relatively conservative government, and a more radical wing led by his second-in-command, Alfonso Guerra.

The Fiesca corruption case, named after a Barcelona-based consultancy group alleged to have channelled one billion pesetas (£5.7 million) to the Socialists in the late 1980s, has heightened the tension. The Guerra camp insists the party should not accept responsibility for the scandal.

Señor González, with one eye on the Socialist election disaster in France last month, says the party should be accountable to the people. He has already said he is prepared to shoulder responsibility for Fiesca and resign if need be.

The party leadership is due to meet on Saturday to decide whether to accept Señor Benegas' resignation. Even if it does, it may not appease those already clamouring for blood. (Reuters)

## Rome's politics must reform or 'be embalmed'

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME



Spirit of reform: Mario Segni, the former Christian Democrat, is urging people to vote for change in next week's plebiscite

The Italian political system will only be fit for "embalming" if the country rejects electoral reform in a crucial referendum next week, Mario Segni, the main promoter of the plebiscite, said yesterday.

"If the 'yes' vote wins it will not mean a magic wand is waved against all the problems of Italy such as the Mafia," explained Signor Segni, who resigned from the Christian Democrat party last week, protesting that the largest political grouping in Italy has lost its Christian inspiration. "But I believe that at least we can have strong institutions. The old parties will disappear. For the first time in Italy, alternation in government will be possible."

Opponents of electoral reform, mainly small parties of protest who stand to gain from retaining proportional representation, claim the visionary Signor Segni is overestimating the April 18 plebiscite as the only hope for a regenerated Italy. But Signor Segni points to growing concern abroad about instability in Rome to support his case. "If the 'no' camp wins, Europe will be right to be afraid of what is happening in Italy," he said. "A 'yes' victory means taking a step toward the conquest of a modern democracy like in the larger Western countries. A 'no' victory would mean embalming this system with 16 or 17 parties, each one trying to grind its own axe rather than thinking of the national interests."

Referendums have played an important part in post-war Italy as an expression of public opinion outside the limits of government initiative. In the 1970s, plebiscites led to legalisation of abortion and

**A fifth of Italy's deputies face corruption charges. Voters are being urged to vote to reform the system**

divorce laws against fierce opposition from the Church and the Christian Democrats.

Signor Segni is asking Italy's 45 million voters to introduce the first-past-the-post system for 238 of the 315 seats in the senate while retaining PR for the remainder. If the 'yes' vote succeeds, the lower house, the chamber of deputies, is expected to follow suit.

The precise mechanics of the reform have yet to be determined. Some 'yes' supporters, including the bulk of the Democratic Party of the Left (PDS) want a French-style system in which electors vote twice. Mino Martinazzoli, the Christian Democrat leader, wants a British-style single round. Signor Segni believes the details are not important so long as Italy can rid itself of the proportional system that has helped produce weak coalition governments and fractured Parliaments ever since April 18, 1948, the first and only time the Christian Democrats won an absolute majority.

Whether the current chamber of deputies, in which one fifth of MPs have been placed under investigation, can be trusted to reform itself, Signor Segni replied that "no parliament will be able to pass a good reform unless it is constrained by the popular will, and that is by a clear 'yes' victory in the referendum on the senate".

If the electorate votes 'yes' he has pledged to develop further his own grassroots movement, the Popolari per la Riforma (ordinary people for reform), which could become either the successor to the Christian Democrats or a challenger for the Catholic-inspired vote. Signor Segni declines to say how many Christian Democrats might follow him out of the parliamentary party. "I did not intend to create a split just to make another little party," said Signor Segni. "I am convinced that the day after the referendum the historical cycle of the old parties will be over."

A lecturer in law in his native Sassari, Signor Segni has been variously dubbed a heretic, an aristocrat and a revolutionary. The newspaper *La Stampa* called him a "bourgeois subversive". He calls himself *un testardo* (headstrong).

His decision to leave the Christian Democrats after 17 years in the party has been hailed as a singular act of courage. There has been speculation that the investigation of Giulio Andreotti, the former Christian Democrat leader, on suspicion of collusion with the Mafia played a part in his decision.

"It is not for me to give judgments on the *avvisi di garanzia* [formal judicial warnings] nor on the work of the judges who must continue their work in peace without outside interference," he said. "Checking the reliability of the supergrass also is the difficult and delicate duty of the magistrature. I can only note that the ruling class of the Christian Democrats is politically responsible for what has happened. I condemn this responsibility and it is because of this that I decided to leave."

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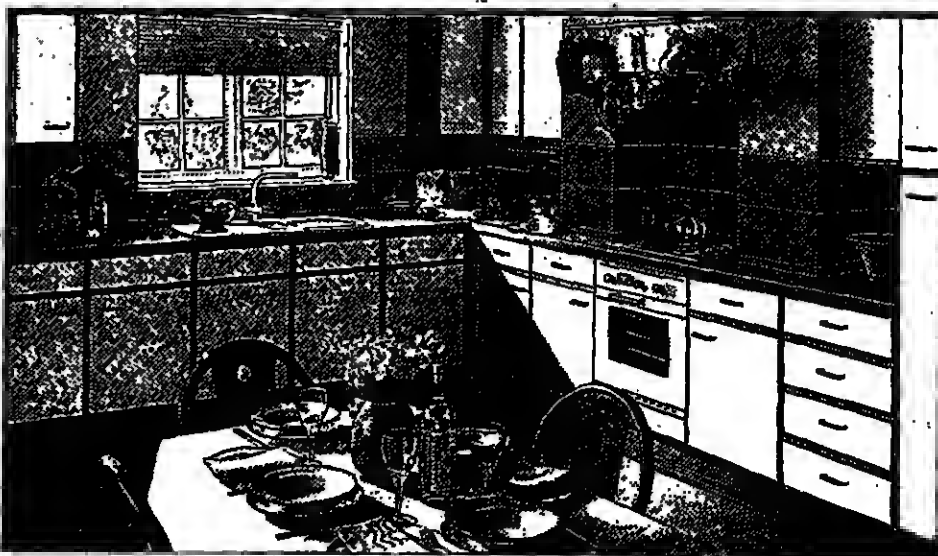
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# Japan proposes new aid package to boost Yeltsin

By JOANNA PITMAN  
AND MICHAEL BINNY

■ Tokyo is in a position to co-ordinate aid to Russia. Moscow could receive £20 billion in relief if the plan is accepted

JAPAN will present a three-point proposal for additional aid for Russia when it chairs a special meeting of the Group of Seven leading industrial nations whose foreign and finance ministers meet in Tokyo on April 14 and 15. It is a move that should build significantly on the success of the Vancouver summit to boost President Yeltsin.

Yeltsin's plan, which is expected to amount to \$30 billion (£20 billion) in new aid, will call for \$5 billion loans to establish a new International Monetary Fund loan system

to shore up capital shortages and smooth the country's transition to a market economy. It also proposes direct financial assistance to foreign exchange earning industries in the energy and agricultural sectors and, thirdly, a rescheduling plan agreed by the Paris Club of government creditors that will save Russia about \$15 billion in repayments due in 1993.

Kiichi Miyazawa, the Japanese prime minister, hoped that Japan would be able to co-ordinate an aid package that would satisfy Mr Yeltsin. "As G7 chairman, I am in a position to co-ordinate aid to Russia. I hope that after Mr Yeltsin comes here in July, he will be able to say he was glad he went to Japan," Mr Miyazawa said.

In Russia, Mr Yeltsin's supporters, yesterday launched their offensive to win over the largely cynical electorate and

secure a decisive victory for the embattled president in the coming referendum. Newspapers, largely sympathetic to the president, made much of his political success in Vancouver and the new involvement of America in supporting reform. They played down the aid aspect but emphasised the new peaceful alliance with Washington.

Mr Yeltsin told crowds in Bratsk, the Siberian city where he stopped over on his return to Moscow, to vote "yes" to the four questions that will appear on the ballot paper. He repeated his contention that there was no alternative to himself to lead the country out of its present difficulties.

Tokyo is reluctantly setting aside the issue of Japan's claim to the Kurile Islands, occupied by Russia since the end of the second world war, to co-operate with its G7 partners in supporting Mr Yeltsin's reform programme.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign minister, who met political leaders yesterday in Tokyo, was impressed with Japan's willingness to separate its bilateral problems from the broader economic issues and the summit. He was also satisfied that Japan's ideas on Russian aid coincide with those of Britain and other G7 partners.

However, there are signs that Japanese perceptions are being altered to fit the expectations of its G7 partners and to further Japan's ambitions to play a more prominent role in international affairs. Japan is involving itself in aid proposals to a country which many businessmen, bureaucrats and politicians still judge to be unfit to absorb and utilise it.

□ Battles continue: Tank and rocket battles continued in the mountains yesterday as Azerbaijan forces fought to prevent Armenians capturing Fizuli, a strategic town south of the Nagorno-Karabakh enclave, whose fall would give Armenian forces control of a huge swathe of Azerbaijani territory.



Conduct unbecoming: a downcast Sergeant Harry Conde, 33, of the US Marines, followed by his lawyer, Marine Captain Stephanie Jennings, leaves a court martial in Mogadishu yesterday where he had been found guilty of assault for shooting two Somali teenagers. Sentence will be passed later. Conde claimed that he fired a shotgun

in self-defence on February 2 because he thought he was being attacked when Ahmed Abdi Omar, 33, grabbed his sunglasses through the window of his vehicle. The boy was hit in the abdomen by buckshot. A 17-year-old bystander was struck in the arm. Belgian troops shot dead two Somalis in a battle in Kismayu yesterday. (AP, Reuters)

## Mandela admits to ANC role in violence

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN  
IN JOHANNESBURG

NELSON Mandela, the African National Congress president, yesterday acknowledged that his organisation was just as deeply involved as any other in the violence afflicting South Africa.

He called for political tolerance and discipline, insisting that if any of his members were proved to have taken part in the violence they would face "the strongest disciplinary action". Addressing a 4,000-strong crowd in Mamelodi, a black township outside Pretoria, at the rehearsal of a former soldier of the ANC's armed wing Umkhonto we Sizwe, the Spear of the Nation, who was hanged for murder 14 years ago, Mr Mandela said: "I'm not going to blame the IFP [Inkatha Freedom Party] and the government only. We must face the truth: our people are just as involved in violence."

Figures published yesterday show that advocates of peace have gradually managed to bring down the general level of violence in the country, despite recent spurts, especially in the main metropolitan region around Pretoria, the Witwatersrand and Vereeniging (PWW). The Human Rights Commission, an ANC-aligned group of campaigners, said there were only 36 politically motivated killings in the PWW region in March, compared with 276 in March last year.

However, Monday's slaughter of ten ANC supporters at Port Shepstone has halted the steps that were being taken towards a summit meeting between the leaders of the ANC and Inkatha. A preparatory meeting due to have been held yesterday has been cancelled.

□ London: Multiracial elections could take place by September, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, president of Inkatha, told the BBC yesterday. (Reuters)

## Ill health forces Watanabe to quit

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

MICHIRO Watanabe, the Japanese foreign minister, resigned yesterday for health reasons. He was replaced by Katsunobu Iwayama, 66, a former trade and industry minister who takes over the post in time to chair the Group of Seven leading industrialised countries foreign and finance ministers meeting to discuss emergency aid for Russia.

"Japanese foreign policy is beset with many difficulties and my task will be enormous. I will pursue the foreign policy goals set by Mr Watanabe," Mr Iwayama said.

The appointment of Mr

Muto by Kiichi Miyazawa, the prime minister, is not expected to result in a change of policy. "Mr Muto will provide continuity. We don't expect any strongly individualistic slant," Kaoru Okano, president of Meiji University, said.

Mr Watanabe, 69, has held the foreign portfolio for 17 months and, as deputy prime minister and leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic party's third largest faction, had been considered a candidate to succeed Mr Miyazawa when his two-year term expires in September. His health has been deteriorating since

last May when he was in hospital with a gallstone problem. The full extent of his illness has not been revealed.

Mr Muto, a member of Mr Watanabe's faction, followed his grandfather and his father into politics after graduating from the law faculty of Kyoto University. He was minister of agriculture from 1979 to 1980, but the bulk of his foreign experience comes from an 11-month spell as minister of international trade and industry in 1990. For the past two years he was chairman of the party's powerful tax research committee.



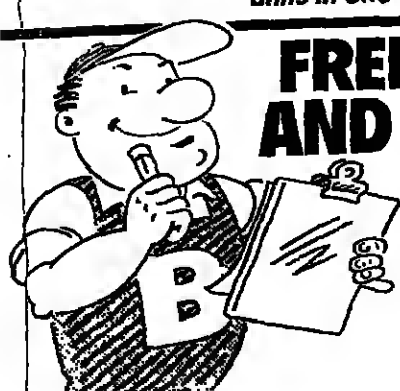
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## Patten urges China to talk or be ignored on changes

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

CHRIS Patten, the governor of Hong Kong, yesterday described himself as a "notorious wet blanket" and made clear his frustration at negotiating over the colony's future with Peking, which has savagely attacked him for his proposals to increase democracy before Hong Kong reverts to China in 1997.

In a speech to the Royal Institute of International Affairs in London, Mr Patten said he hoped the stalled talks could restart soon "in a spirit of sincerity on both sides". Adding: "I don't kid myself, any more than does Lu Ping (the Chinese official in charge of Hong Kong affairs) that talks would be a pushover. Talks were they to take place, would be very difficult indeed. But they would give Chinese officials an opportunity to tell us what they would like to do in 1994 and 1995."

Mr Patten gave a warning that if China failed to agree to talks, his proposals would be submitted to the colony's legislature for action. "If there are no talks, we shall have to put our proposals to the Legislative Council," he said.

Mr Patten, who is in Britain for talks with John Major and Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, also spoke of the "not very useful abuse" coming from Peking and said he wanted China to hold "rational talks".

Hours before the governor likened himself to Mr Skinner, the Labour MP who is known as the "Beast of Bolsover", the Hong Kong government announced that it had no intention of delaying

the democracy bill further. Baroness Dunn, a senior adviser to Mr Patten, said after a meeting of the Executive Council: "The postponement of the bill is not an option, given that we have to have electoral provisions for the elections in 1994 and 1995."

Debate on the bill was postponed last week for the second time since its publication on March 12 after Chi-

na, which has called off all talks with London since March 12, has said that, if Mr Patten submits his bill to the Legislative Council, negotiations will be impossible and it will be forced to set up a shadow government in the transition to 1997.

Under Mr Patten's bill, all members of the district boards will be directly elected, abolishing the previous appointments to half their seats.

□ Peking: Two armed mainland Chinese, who said they hated communism, hijacked a Chinese airliner carrying 204 people and forced it to fly to Taiwan yesterday.

The hijackers stormed into the cockpit of the China Southern Airlines Boeing 757 on a flight to Peking from the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen. They asked for political asylum and remained in police custody when the plane flew back to the Chinese city of Canton with the passengers and crew. (Reuters)

Mr Patten has been urged by nearly half the members of

the colony's district boards to abandon the bill so as not further to enrage China. The petitioners accused him of "ruining" Sino-British relations by publishing the bill when new talks with Peking were "imminent".

A total of 131 of the 274 members on Hong Kong's 19 local government bodies petitioned Mr Patten, Wong Sik Kong, the group's spokesman, said. He added that only through negotiations could the controversy be solved, and called for co-operation as "vital for prosperity and stability in Hong Kong".

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## Khmer Rouge told to hand over killer dinner guests

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PHNOM PENH

CAMBODIA seemed to be heading inexorably for chaos and renewed civil war yesterday as United Nations peacekeepers, after the most serious incident since their arrival here last year to monitor a tenuous peace, squared off against the Khmer Rouge.

The UN anger was provoked when a Khmer Rouge officer and his men coolly murdered three Bulgarian soldiers after being their guests at an apparently congenial dinner last weekend.

In a letter of icy politeness that only thinly disguised his fury, Yasushi Akashi, the usually mild-mannered UN chief, demanded that Khieu Samphan, Khmer Rouge's nominal leader, hand over the Khmer Rouge killers, commanded by a "Major Don", who carried out the "cold-blooded murder" so that the UN could bring criminal proceedings.

Even as he did so news of another Khmer Rouge attack late on Monday night came through in which a Bulgarian at a guard post near the scene of the previous attack, 44 miles northwest of Phnom Penh, was shot several times in the abdomen, one bullet damaging his spinal column, paralysing him. Two Bangladeshi UN members have also been killed in the past month, one at a Phnom Penh regime checkpoint.

Extra security was installed at the UN headquarters in Phnom Penh, which will be visited by Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, when he arrives here

today to witness the start of the UN-supervised campaign leading up to elections from May 23 to 27 - a campaign diplomats say is likely to be violent. Wire fences were being set up atop the existing high walls of the complex, the former French governor-general's residence, and television security cameras installed.

After a series of explosions here last week, reports have spread that the capital is "full of Khmer Rouge", whose leaders, despite signing the peace accords on Cambodia in 1991, are boycotting the election campaign. "All UN military units have been told to increase vigilance," Eric Falt, for the UN, said.

An unusual tableau was being enacted yesterday on the Tonle Sap river flowing through Phnom Penh, as entire villages of Vietnamese houseboats, roped together for security, floated through the capital after the massacre of 46 Vietnamese by Khmer Rouge forces last month. John Leighton, the British officer commanding the UN Navy in Cambodia, said 3,000 Vietnamese had passed through Phnom Penh by last night, joining 7,000 who have already fled.

There is the possibility that Cambodian students, many of them influenced by Khmer Rouge propaganda against the UN, which Khmer Rouge leaders allege is working with the Phnom Penh regime, will stage demonstrations against Dr Boutros Ghali. The UN may decide to fly him from the airport to his headquarters.

## Cuban daredevil falls out of favour with exiles

FROM DAVID ADAMS  
IN MIAMI

LESS than four months after becoming the toast of the town for rescuing his family from Cuba in a daring plane escape, Orestes Lorenzo, a former Cuban airforce major, is being vilified over plans to send a floating "Crusade of Love" across the Florida Straits to Havana.

He was lionised by Miami's large Cuban exile community in December when he flew a light plane low over the water from the Florida Keys and landed on a road where his wife and two sons were waiting for him. The Lorenzo family was invited to the White House by President Bush. Former President Reagan invited

them to his eighty-second birthday party in Los Angeles, they appeared on American breakfast television and on chat shows. Everyone was struck by the daredevil pilot, his devoted wife and their smiling children.

DisneyWorld invited Señor Lorenzo to lead a parade in Orlando, Florida, for \$300,000 (£200,000) he sold the rights to his life story for a television film and he signed a \$275,000 deal to write a book. But then it all went wrong.

Mistake number one: the Lorenzos chose to live in the Washington area, spurning Florida because they felt it was too dangerous to raise children in Miami. Miami Cubans might have forgiven him the former, but he followed this up with a long speech at

a Miami gala in which he proposed that Cuban exiles reach out to their brothers and sisters on the island in a show of solidarity by launching a flotilla of boats carrying food, medicine and clothing to Havana.

He said Fidel Castro would be embarrassed by the enthusiasm of the large crowds that would gather to receive the much needed gifts. From the gesture, Cubans on the island would learn that they have nothing to fear from their capitalist countrymen in Miami, he said.

The idea was an instant disaster. His speech received only polite applause and the organisers of the gala disowned him. Critics charged that the flotilla would play into the hands of Dr Castro's appeals for an

end to the American economic embargo against Cuba. The supplies would end up in the hands of the Communist party, not the people, they said.

Radio commentators who had earlier praised Señor Lorenzo's heroism, angrily denounced him, calling him a "cretin", a "traitor" and an agent of the Castro government.

"He should not interfere in this," said Tomas Garcia-Fuste, a popular radio host. "He hasn't even lived in Miami. He is a newcomer to exile and he doesn't understand how we think."

Señor Lorenzo is undaunted. "I'm not surprised. This isn't a popularity contest. I do think the idea is good and I keep the faith."



Matthew Parris asks why we let the tyranny of family and custom ruin the lives of so many women

# Invisible slaves on our doorstep

The most interesting philosophical dilemma to have confronted any British minister in years now faces education secretary John Patten. What should be his approach to Muslim education? "Freedom-lovers" on the right urge him to relax the state's grip on schooling, but should they? I have no answer, and pose the question only to move on from it: for it points us to a hole at the centre of libertarian thought, and a danger for all who see devolution from central government as an almost automatic means of freeing the individual. Small is not always beautiful. Small can be very ugly indeed.

Modern British libertarians have become fixated upon the central state. Here they have something in common with socialists, for one embraces, the other despises, government, yet for both it is an obsession. Libertarians see the state as the great Satan, and its defeat as their salvation. Yet there is a truth they must know they have ducked. Man, and woman, is not en-

slaved by the state alone; not persecuted only by laws; not repressed only by statute or constrained only by the police. Some of the most vicious and potent oppressors of individual liberty are to be found in the very agencies which decentralisers want to empower: family, neighbourhood, parish, community, religion, tribe. Heedlessly to disarm the central state can revive the most insidious nannies and re-arm the deadliest of all repressors of personal freedom: the small units of human government. The libertarian does not call them "government". Nomenclature alone rescues a hundred tyrannies, small and large, from his censure. Yet if government is ruled by institutions, then government they are. Family is the smallest institution and the most potent. What comfort is it to the woman whose housing, marriage, employment, manner of dress and speech — whose whole lifestyle — is ruthlessly dictated from above, that her oppressor is called "family" rather than "government"? For some people there is less escape from family than from the police.

Often linked with family is a network of unofficial institutions associated with what we call "community" whose operation, though it lies outside statute, can be as rigidly structured and more authoritarian. Local opinion, church, synagogue or mosque — these agencies are capable of flattening private liber-



What hope for the future of these pupils at an Islamic school in Brent? Despite secular education and because of religious tolerance many Muslim girls can only look forward to a life of servitude

ties as effectively as any Whitehall bureaucrat, and by methods which are harder to monitor. Often they permit no appeal.

Where is the greatest oppressor of women to be found? Is it law? No. Few British laws oppress women, but religion and custom do. When the closed shop was protected by law, free-market campaigners campaigned to change the law. Their reasoning was that the closed shop was both an economic distortion and an affront to liberty. But discrimination against women is also an economic distortion and affront to liberty. Islam, and the Vatican's attitude to birth-control, would impose upon women an economic as well as a social role. We are talking about half the potential workforce. Yet do we hear the Centre for Policy Studies on the subject of Rome, or Mecca?

Many Islamic countries hardly bother to translate their repression of women into statute. It is unnecessary, so effective is cultural pressure.

In socialist Algeria the state was trying to enhance the freedoms of women. With the erosion of the state's authority there, half the country is losing its liberty. On whose side does the libertarian find himself?

In India the caste system creates a pariah class as effectively as apartheid in South Africa ever did: yet the system is enforced largely outside the law. In black Africa the basis for discriminatory structures as unrelenting as they are unacknowledged is often tribe: yet somehow these injustices fail to arouse us. As P.J. O'Rourke has observed, if you want to oppress it is important to write nothing down.

In most of the Spanish-speaking South American countries the English visitor, his eye untrained to distinguish between sunbathers, may miss the fact that the top half of society is populated almost exclusively by Hispanics and half-castes.

You will rarely see a South American Indian in any class above that of peasant farmer or small shopkeeper. They are kept down more successfully than the blacks in South Africa. Their status is hereditarily sealed, yet without overt words of legislation. Nothing about race appears on the statute book of any South American nation. Nothing needs to be. The rules visible, campaigns against apartheid would go wild. As they are not, anti-racism is mostly uninvolved.

Enshrining oppression into law can sometimes be a sign that it is not deeply rooted in society. Consider the oppression of homosexuals. If you were to look only at the statute book you would conclude that gay men enjoy remarkable tolerance in Spain. Spanish law hardly mentions the subject and the age of homosexual consent is 12. There is no need for law: the church does the job, and (outside the big cities and tourist beaches) an effective job it does. Here the age is 21,

and British law is more oppressive towards homosexuals, yet British culture is more permissive. To know which matters most, ask yourself whether you would rather be an openly gay man in an English or Spanish country town. Recent decades have seen a mushrooming of lobbies and think-tanks funded to resist regulation and advance individual freedom yet, with a few exceptions, such organisations have fixed their gaze on the law. Why? Why is the Freedom Association more hated at the TGWU than at Woking mosque? Why does the Adam Smith Institute turn its gaze always upon Westminster? Why not look the other way down Victoria Street, to Westminster Cathedral?

The explanation, I believe, lies in a mixture of empire-building, laziness and an anxiety to show results. Research and campaigning organisations quickly build up an internal structure within which careers and status are at stake. This grows

more true as lobbying grows more professional. Its institutions become like little states. It is a characteristic of governments that they prefer dealing with other governments, and officials from lobby or research groups when dealing with the outside world, unconsciously prefer to deal with other officials.

Required to tell others, or tell yourself what you and your organisation is doing, it is easy and satisfying to list the departmental bodies you have met, the MPs you have briefed, and the parliamentary questions you have inspired.

Religious, with their curious recourse to intangibles, are hard to lobby. "Local feeling" is impossible to shake hands with — so why not find the local councillor? The family is unrepresented as an institution — so why not talk to the WI? How can one explain to the board at the AGM that one has

engaged in a discourse with popular culture? Better to say one has raised funds in the community, or urged people to write to their MPs.

These days we do things in the name of democracy. If there is oppression it must be blamed on governments, not the people. This protects us from the thought (so undermining to a campaigner's self-belief) that our fellow countrymen might be the problem. Lobbyists seek the support — even the enmity — of politicians, and the approval of other lobbyists. Then we all know where we are. Scrutinising each other's agenda, we drink coffee in each other's offices. We take taxis to Westminster, turning our eyes from the masses we pass in the street.

This week, the 98th anniversary of the arrest of Oscar Wilde, it is worth noting that that is both necessary, and not enough. Wilde's captors were the police. But his persecutors were to be found on the letters page of the *Daily Telegraph*.

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Always a good sign.

The Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) once suggested that a new government department should be set up whose officials would be dedicated exclusively to the repeal of unnecessary or stupid laws. The British do not take kindly to this sort of wisdom. This, after all, is a nation so subservient to the nanny state that it followed ministers' advice to stay at home during last Friday's rail strike. So what right do batty libertarians have to call for the law-books to be ripped up?

Quite a lot. This has not been a good week for Britain's lawmakers. Last Friday, John Patten and his colleagues at the education department were more than a little alarmed to discover that the draftsmen of the 1988 Education Reform Act had somehow forgotten to include a clause obliging teachers to teach and test the enormous curriculum which it set up. Unions planning to boycott this summer's classroom examinations but fearful of prosecution could hardly believe their luck.

Meanwhile, Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, is launching an urgent review of the 1991 Criminal Justice Act. In its first six months, the law that was meant to make life easier for the courts has done just the opposite. Where clarity was needed, the government has introduced obscurity.

Take the question of previous offences and their role in sentencing. On the one hand, the act instructs magistrates not to take offenders' past record into account. Yet section 29 says, in contradiction, that the "circumstances of other offences" may indeed aggravate a crime. The Home Office handbook to the act is still more confusing. Not unreasonably, the nation's magistrates are complaining that old-fashioned discretion has been replaced by centrally-directed confusion.

To pass one fatally flawed

## A curse on Britain's lousy law-makers

act is a misfortune. But two? That looks like carelessness. The Tories are not pleased with this legislative double-whammy and the search for scalps is already on. But scapegoating avoids the root of the disease. The truth is that the British are lousy law-makers. Parliament may be a wonderful talking shop and a sketch writer's delight but it has become a strangely ineffective legislative machine.

Once upon a time, Britons kept such things in perspective. The Anglo-Saxon kings knew that *lex scripta* — written law — was a good way of

Where else would an all-night sitting be a cause for celebration?

impressing visiting churchmen and well-educated noblemen but an unreliable basis for running a society. Gruffly spoken proclamations tended to have more impact on warriors brought up on *Beowulf* than chit-chat warning them to do as they were told. Most of them were in any case too busy feuding to worry about legal niceties — a historic scenario which may ring a bell with today's education ministers. But an awful lot of laws have been passed since the Normans arrived as Hobbes's *Leviathan* and Rousseau's *Lawgiver* have joined hands to

Loopholes in the Education Act make an ass of the law

intervene in every nook of British life. In our neurotic search for neat, written solutions to every social ill, we have forced an ever greater volume of legislation along the parliamentary conveyor belt. Lawmaking has become more important than lawkeeping.

In 1911, the government passed about 450 pages of public general statutes. When Lord Hewart wrote *The New Despotism*, he was appalled that the figure had risen to 1,000 pages between the wars. These days, 13,000 pages is a typical annual yield (so much for rolling back the state). Given this astonishing output, it is hardly surprising that overworked parliamentary draftsmen burning the midnight oil forget such minor details as requiring teachers to test their pupils.

On average, British statutes are about five times longer and five times wordier than comparable continental laws. While French laws start with a clear, succinct statement of legislative purpose, British courts are left to their own devices to forage through the statutory undergrowth in search of Parliament's intentions. Last year's education white paper, for instance, was a well-written, provocative document which set out a comprehensive framework for British schools

In contrast, the 200-page bill which it spawned — the longest education bill in history — is a prolix nightmare of cross-references and subclauses that had most interested MPs and educationists reaching for their revolvers (or a stiff drink).

MPs may complain bitterly about the hours they work but they also seem to relish the byzantine complexity of the legislative process. In what other civilised country would all-night sittings of Parliament be a matter for joyous celebration as they have been during the Maastricht debates?

Indeed, the more legislation

that comes before parliament, the greater the incentive to obstruction and deflection. In their filibustering campaign, today's Euro-skeptics have assumed the mantle of Lord Palmerston, whose famous speech during the Don Pacifico debate lasted from dusk till dawn. If there is one thing which British legislators love more than making laws, it is wrecking them.

Meanwhile, the public will be left wondering what the great Maastricht parliamentary pantomime has to do with the future of Britain in Europe and why they have been denied a referendum. Magistrates will ask why their task is being made harder. Parents will wonder why their children are not being tested. And, sooner or later, the IEA's special department will not seem such a crazy idea after all.

MATTHEW D'ANCONA

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Smart men know better than to tell a woman she is looking good. Should we be mourning the passing of such niceties?

# Don't be afraid to flatter me



SARAH MOWER

Has anyone else noticed that the compliment is dying out? It's a bit late to complain now, I suppose, but we have reached the stage where civilised men do not pay civilised women compliments about their appearance any more — probably because they do not dare.

In terms of causing offence, a well-intentioned, "That's a lovely dress you've got on" is almost more incendiary to a female colleague than a down-right rude "Had a heavy weekend, then?" A smart man keeps his mouth shut in either case. The last remaining verbalised compliment a British woman is likely to receive is "Whorrrr" as she passes a building site. That's our lot.

In the office, the new behavioural convention is that we

do not notice how other people are looking. Everyone knows this is a big lie. We've never been more primed to notice, to compare and award points to the people who come into our daily line of vision. It's just that it's illegal — or at least, socially unacceptable — to voice our findings. The consequence is that British men are so afraid of having their heads torn off that now they will not offer compliments in private, either. Maybe they're just reverting to a safe sort of national inarticulateness. Or maybe it's a kind of retaliation, like not standing up for women on the

Tube — why should we have our cake and eat it?

The odd thing is that the outlawing of the compliment has taken place against a sharply rising trend of provocativeness in the clothes women have been prepared to wear to work. What did the ever-shorter skirts and the form-clinging leggings mean? That women were so confident that men wouldn't dare pass comment, that we believed we had entered a kind of sexual amnesty zone? Or that it was a kind of escalating taunt — "Go on, I dare you, say something!" The biggest rubbish

But look now — something else is happening. While the young are chucking out their tight black Lycra, the ex, older woman is discovering she doesn't want to give it up. Why? The bitter truth is that she's afraid of losing her last lifeline to that elusive compliment: it is only a thought in a male colleague's mind. When an older, more powerful man openly leers at a sedately dressed female subordinate, she can feel compromised, and that's wrong. But when the same man makes a similar pass at a female equal, it's different because she's big enough to know

how to field it, and she might — extraordinary thought — even like it.

Thus we hear Anita Roddick complaining that men she meets in business don't fancy her; read Barbara Amiel bending her towering intellect in defence of the short skirt; are astonished to see arch-feminist Robin Morgan (editor-in-chief of *Ms* magazine) lamenting that men and women "don't know how to get it on anymore".

Many "older" — I dare not say middle-aged — women think short skirts and high heels make them look young. But what happens when the young start wearing do-

thes from Martin Margiela that are made out of the heels of old socks, T-shirts that look as if they've shrunk in the wash and skirts whose hems drag on the floor? If ever there was a Flirt Not look, this is it, and the over-thirties sense danger. They know there is a watershed in a woman's life after which she views any compliment gratefully rather than as a sinister infringement of liberty.

What happens is this: for a certain number of years you can dress in your father's holey M & S cardigan, and still get leered at — and you will go pink with indignation about it. Then, one day, much later, you'll pass a building site, hear "Whorrrr" and have to turn round to check: Do they mean me? And, what's ghastly is, you'll be pleased if they do.

Texans sport a unique style. Men favour polyester and women Wild West wear, says Ben Macintyre

## Rattling about in Texas

Texans are different: not only does Texas consider itself bigger, better, richer, sexier and more American than any other state, but its inhabitants seem almost obsessively concerned with the full-time requirements of just being Texan.

The Texas style is unique: courtly, old-fashioned, rumbustious, tall-in-the-saddle, "hick with attitude" and bizarrely infectious. Having just spent three weeks in Waco, the self-proclaimed "Heart of Texas", I know. Y'all.

Partly this is a result of history and size. The state is distressingly vast to European eyes, and largely self-contained.

Most Texans have never seen anyone who isn't Texan; and many, politely but firmly, do not want to. Just as Texas takes up a disproportionate amount of America, so Texans take up a disproportionate area of the country's public life: George Bush, James Baker, Ross Perot, Steve Wyatt, all are Texans first and Americans second.

The Texas style is part cowboy, swagger and brio, and part Mexican grandee, a subtler more arch sort of pride — note, by the way, that George Bush consistently pronounced Sarajevo as if it was in Mexico: thus "Sarajehov", with a glottal hiccup on the h.

What you wear is what you are in Waco, Texas, although what you are is also accurately reflected by what you drive and what you shoot. The FBI

negotiators, the men and women with the unenviable task of trying to wrinkle the cult leader David Koresh out of his fortified compound, for example, are unmistakable: they wear caps and jackets with "FBI NEGOTIATOR" written on them in yellow letters.

In Linda's Happy Time Tavern, a cowboy bar on the outskirts of Waco that may once have been an aircraft hangar and boasts some of the town's more exciting brawls, one can observe the Texas style in its native habitat.

Here cowboy boots and hats are more or less a required uniform for men, women and children. Hats are worn indoors, all the time, and baseball caps are also permitted if worn backwards.

Men tend to favour those polyester western shirts with ribbing around the front which make it seem as if you have pectorals even if you have a concave chest. Thumbbs should be worn tucked into the waistband of crotch-threatening jeans. On special occasions, such as karaoke night at Linda's, men wear the traditional Texan string tie, held in place with a clasp shaped like a gun or a pick-up truck.

The women clientele at Linda's (in Texas these are Ladies, by the way) also wear dangerously tight jeans, as well as flowing dresses or fringed suits. There is no sexual discrimination in the incidence of tattoos, and hair is usually worn in defiance of gravity.

At the Waco annual rattlesnake roundup, when the



Deep in the heart of Texas: although it is easy to make fun of, anyone who has revelled in a Clint Eastwood movie finds it hard to resist the pull of the Wild West wardrobe

people of the surrounding countryside put 50 grumpy "rattlers" in a cage and then irritate them, another fashion item can be observed: knee-high leather moccasins, which prevent the rattlesnakes from biting your ankles as you wander among them. A very large stick is also a good idea.

Waco must be one of the few places in the world where you can still buy adult-sized, striped Osh Kosh B'Gosh dungarees, of the sort usually worn by infants. These are made of some sort of reinforced cardboard, and appear to be modelled to accommodate nappies since there is room in the adult versions for

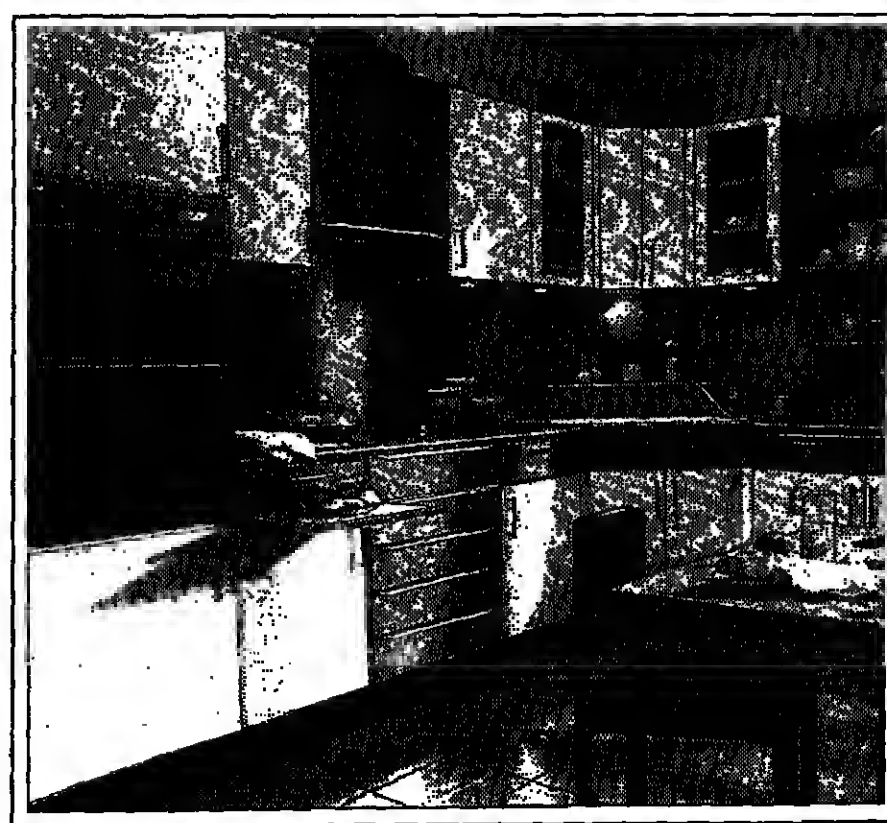
at least two normally-shaped people.

Although it is easy to make fun of, anyone who has ever revelled in a Clint Eastwood movie or found themselves saying "git along little dawgie" under their breath, finds it hard to resist the pull of the Wild West wardrobe.

At the end of the first week of the Waco stand-off, a smattering of snakeskin boots could be observed among the world's press ranged around Linda's bar; by the end of the second, some were wearing stetsons; by the third, still others sported spurs as they mouthed the words to "Rawhide" for the umpteenth time.



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## Beware Female Young Fogettes

Women today cannot be sexy, successful and taken seriously

EMMA THOMPSON returned to London this week and the clothes she loves best. Gone was the glitter she donned for the Oscars; instead, she sported a baggy T-shirt and oversized baseball jacket, with her hair scraped back almost into a bun. Britain's youngest female professional breasted a sigh of disappointment.

For it is an unwritten rule of the British establishment that to be taken seriously as a young woman you must dress dowdily. For a moment, it seemed as if Thompson might have burrowed under the wire

to the glamour of Hollywood. She might have become a genuine siren, might have been a contender — the first example of a successful British woman who is taken seriously in her profession but is not afraid of being sexy.

But no. It had to be jeans and a T-shirt for the announcement that she is to star as lawyer Gareth Peirce who helped free one of the Guildford Four. How sartori-

ally correct and how unglamorous. The pedestal for the woman at once sexy, successful and taken seriously, remains vacant. Can you think of anyone both politically correct and sexy?

Working girls in Britain do a dowdy uniform from the moment they decide they want to be successful. Aged 22, fresh out of college and ponytails and mini-skirts, they metamorphose into middle-aged mummy look-alikes in the office. Skirts drop to a conservative knee, hair is scraped back or cut short, glasses are donned if possible (there is a roaring trade in fake glasses with plain lenses). The look is sober, discreet.

These are the Female Young Fogettes, or Fogettes as they might be known. Examples abound, not just in the ranks of budding executive accountants and lawyers crammed in the Tube every morning, but on television (Sarah Dunant, presenter of *The Late Show*, and Fiona Armstrong, who left the breakfast channel GMTV when her bosses said she should show more leg to boost her F (or fanciability) factor, to novelist Jeanette Winterson, who soon will look like Doris Lessing) and businesswomen (Pippa Wicks, the 30-year-old finance director of Courtaulds).



RACHEL KELLY

contest. Women dress their age, and naturally attract the attention of senior executives as a result.

The danger for the young professionals is that middle-aged dressing will foster middle-aged attitudes. There is already precious little to distinguish them from their older colleagues. They work harder than ever before, often taking on the roles of older colleagues who have been made redundant, while the 1980s housing boom has left many burdened with the millstone of large mortgages. So let dress lead the way.

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## Alan Coren



■ Under the new laws, property owners will have to learn pride of place

Sunday was a very big day for Cricklewood. Sunday was the day Cricklewood got very big. To understand why, we must go back 21 years to the day I bought a house in Hampstead. I had always wanted a house in Hampstead, it would match my painstakingly battered typewriter, it would match my fastidiously wrinkled curtains, it would match my *amour propre* and my aspirations, it would, in short, set me up a treat for the literary life. More yet than that, Hampstead's osmotic air would actually power that life: sucked into the carburettor, it would produce so rich a mixture with the blood as to ensure a permanent heyday of creativity, I should be able to knock out stuff like that till the cows came home. Keats had lived in Hampstead, Leigh Hunt, Wilkie Collins, Wells, Lytton Strachey, Bennett, Galsworthy, Lawrence, Katherine Mansfield, Stephen Spender, J.B. Priestley, three sorts of du Maurier... clearly, Hampstead was the literary equivalent of Carducci or Lourdes, a couple of lungfuls of Heath oxygen, a quick dunk in the Well Road slipper bath, and writer's block would be cured for ever, you would be able to take up your Olivetti and walk, the stuff would come rattling effortlessly out of it at 100 wpm, and every word a little gem. Added to which, at the dose of each day's imperishable chapter, you would be off to any one of a dozen gamey boozers to chew the literary fat over a pint of absinthe with the best and the brightest, no, no, my shout, Kingsley, room for another pork scratching, Miss Drabble?

So I went into this estate agent's in Heath Street and told him I was looking for a house in Hampstead, and he pulled out a lot of brochures, and I peered at the asking prices, and after the red mist had ebbed, it struck me that Keats had clearly had a bob or two, there must have been real money in ones, once, but I did not remark on this to the agent, because there was little about him to bespeak a fan of the anapaest, I merely told him how much the Halifax reckoned I was good for, so he opened a different drawer, and we set off in his Vauxhall, and I said somewhere up near Whiststone Pond would be nice, and he said wouldn't it just, and I said what about the Vale of Heath, and he said what indeed, but what he actually showed me were not the thing at all, you'd be surprised how much of Hampstead is home to the unwashed cat, so I reminded him that I was after something large and comfy, with a back fence you couldn't touch from the house, after which we drove for a while and fetched up at this big brick 1930 number, very nice, I said, if crumbling, yes, said the agent, it has a lot of character all right, plus mature garden, very true, I said, the Matto Grosso suddenly seems juvenile, but I liked the house, it had that feel, and there was nothing wrong with it that a couple of international bestsellers couldn't fix, so I shook his hand and let it palm the deposit (this was 1972, remember, when things went gazzump in the night) and when my wife saw it, she steadied herself on the gatepost (I said, she steadied, she lurched together) but she said nothing because she was eight months pregnant and would have settled for a decent manger, so it was a bit late when I strolled to the end of the street and saw this big sign that said Cricklewood. "In a sense, yes," said the agent, when I rang, "but it is definitely Hampstead borders. Walk to the other end of the street, you're in Hampstead." "West Hampstead," I said. "Exactly," said the agent.

Very soon, I discovered how tiny Cricklewood was. Being big on the map did not signify, marking laughed at cartography. When it was not Hampstead, Cricklewood was South Hendon, Fortune Green, Gladstone Park, Child's Hill Village, the Moorcroft Estate... I had come to live in Suburbia, a point never made clearer to me than when I began writing about it, and my neighbours went beserk, bombarding me with letters headed "Hampstead NW2" insisting that that was where we lived, call it Cricklewood and bang went property values, what was I, mad?

But Sunday changed all that. On Sunday, they were faced with shaping up or shipping out, if that is, they could find any takers. For on Sunday, the Property Misdescriptions Act became law, and at the stroke of midnight, Cricklewood became absolutely enormous. Ask any estate agent.

Peter Brooks 7/IV/93



## What Patten should say

As the education secretary prepares to speak to a teachers' union today, its leader, Peter Smith, offers some advice

Parents have a right to ask, now in bewilderment, perhaps soon in angry frustration, what on earth is going on in our schools? After a long, sullen, ceaseless, trench warfare has broken out again between the government and teachers. With issues so complex that the two sides rarely seem to speak the same language, what chance is there that peace talks can start? And if the battle escalates, will the voices of parents and pupils be drowned out, as usual?

Five years ago the government introduced a national curriculum for all state-funded schools. Its purpose was to raise the level of achievement of children by providing benchmarks of attainment through a standard system of assessment and testing for all pupils up to the age of 16.

But now teachers say that a system which is excellent in principle has fundamental design faults. Not only are the individual subjects overburdened with content, but when taken together they dominate teaching, marginalising anything outside the national curriculum, such as second foreign languages. The curriculum, designed by ten educational quantity surveyors in search of an architect, has become unmanageable in the classroom, demanding more time than is available, and intolerably burdensome for teachers, particularly those in primary schools, where testing, if done dutifully, must be done on an individual basis.

Teachers' most damning complaint is that the system, far from raising standards, is actually diverting their energy and commitment away from teaching children and into a bureaucratic Slough of Despond. Their frustration is so intense that some have already begun industrial action and are boycotting the testing and assessment of pupils.

Two of the biggest unions, my own, the Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL), and the National Union of Teachers, will decide at their conference this week and next whether to ballot their members on a similar boycott. If these unions decide to boycott, then more than three-quarters of the country's teachers will support the whole exercise. It will not be possible for testing to go ahead.

John Patten, the education secretary, will today address the ATL conference in Cardiff. Significantly, this is the first major teachers' union conference he has visited since he took office a year ago. What should he say — or can — Mr Patten say today to resolve this destructive dispute?

First, it is imperative that teachers are not opposed to the principle of the national curriculum. They are not opposed to testing. Indeed the most vocal protesters at present are the very teachers who minted the "gold standard" A-levels. They are not opposed to parents receiving regular, reliable information about how their children are progressing.

Teachers want a fundamental, urgent review of the national curriculum, not solely because of workloads but because the government, schools and teachers have a duty and an obligation to produce the best, not the worst form of curriculum for children. As professional guardians of their pupils, the teachers whom John Major has praised for their day-to-day commitment will feel compelled to protest in the only obvious way left open to them.

Today it is not only teachers, the educational world and critics of the government who are saying that the national curriculum must be reformed. Mr Patten agrees, as do the government's closest supporters and philosophical sympathisers.

Today Mr Patten has to show that he is a big enough man, and a candid enough minister, to accept that the present system is in danger of collapse and must be changed. It will not be enough for him to say that teachers should press ahead with a policy which is attracting universal criticism, while promising piecemeal improvement. For the piecemeal construction of the national curriculum is at the heart of the problem.

The education secretary must accept that changing the system is not a political climbdown, but a sensible way of seizing an opportunity. Yes, his political foes in and out of the teaching profession will sneer and jeer, but those with integrity and honesty will respect such an admission, even though some will continue to disagree with his politics.

Mr Patten should announce today that he has asked the widely-respected Sir Ron Dearing, the chairman-designate of the new Schools Curriculum and Assessment Authority, to carry out an immediate and urgent review of the national curriculum in its entirety, not just subject by subject. The review should be completed in months not years, so that a reformed, streamlined national curriculum is ready by 1994. It is a tall order, but it can be done.

He should also announce a pause in this year's system of testing and assessment, and in particular should say that English and technology tests for 14-year-olds will be carried out on a voluntary basis. Results should not be reported in league-table form, since the tests are simply not reliable enough at present for confident comparisons to be made. If Mr Patten does that, the vast majority of teachers would, I believe, continue to work within the new learning framework which the national curriculum has put in place.

At this point some teachers would argue that to ask for testing to be voluntary is merely to demand what the profession sought right at the start of the dispute, when the epicentre of protest was the testing of 14-year-olds in English and technology. The demand may be similar, but the failure so far of Wansworth Education Authority to obtain an injunction against teachers already boycotting the tests has radically changed the challenge. What was initially a limited fire-up is now burning as a bush fire and spreading rapidly.

If the boycott spreads, not only will different levels and kinds of testing occur in different schools, making comparisons impossible, but testing and assessment even within schools will fragment. In short, the testing system will have lost the little credibility it ever possessed. That is the new factor

which makes it imperative for Mr Patten to call for a pause in this year's programme.

Mr Patten should also say today that this first speech to a major teaching union conference marks the start of a new dialogue with teachers and the organisations which represent them. He must resist any attempt by right-wing Conservatives to blame teachers for a national curriculum which has plunged wildly out of control.

He must announce that there will be genuine teacher involvement at all levels in the Schools Curriculum and Assessment Authority when it is set up. Mr Patten appoints the authority's council members. Teachers simply will not believe him if he claims that he is unable to find even one classroom practitioner from a state school to contribute to its important work. He must also ensure that political thinktanks and head-bangers, whether from right or left, are cleared out. It is crucial that the new authority is apolitical.

This may be a nasty, perhaps too nasty, dose of medicine for any politician to swallow. Cynics will dismiss my suggestions as pie-in-the-sky. Mr Patten, a man of deep and declared moral commitment, is more likely than some to think beyond mere political opportunism.

These are the changes necessary if the national curriculum is to be reformed, and, as important, if the political climate in which it operates is to be improved. In exchange, any holder of Mr Patten's office would be entitled to expect a response from the teachers. They must play their part in constructing a new, fairer and more effective national curriculum. They must work to accomplish the changes they seek.

Teachers must be prepared to accept — as the vast majority already do — that testing and assessing children's performance is not merely desirable but necessary. They must also accept that striving for improved standards throughout is fundamental to any system of education and training, and that there needs to be an effective method of comparison, not merely from one year to the next, but between schools, so as to inform parental choice. Improvements must be more than pious hopes or empty boasts; they must be demonstrable. Parents, taxpayers and voters are entitled to expect that.

The author is the general secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers.

## Enforcing peace in Bosnia

Western resolve is better than bombs, says Roger Boyes

David Howell gave us bombs for breakfast yesterday. It was time, he told *Today*, the early morning radio programme, to think about bombing Serbian airfields and to confront Serb militiamen on the ground. If that amounted to a war against Serbia, then so be it.

Now Mr Howell, a senior Tory, is not a natural member of the "something must be done" school: nor does he have any Bosnian Muslims in his Surrey constituency. He is a sensible politician who probably would not know how to hold, let alone rattle, a sabre. It is a mark of the deep frustration about Serbian behaviour that he and other mild-mannered members of the political class are dabbling on warpaint. The turning-point was probably the mismanaged American air drops to the Muslims of eastern Bosnia. Why should the world's strongest power be forced to take such desperate measures by a rabble of militiamen blocking aid convoys on the road? The humiliation of the West was complete. Weeks later, the Serbs are still playing with the UN food trucks, the Muslims are in terrible condition, and we are no closer to a solution.

Yet Mr Howell is wrong. The time is not quite right for allied military intervention. Nor is this the moment for Secretary of State Warren Christopher's proposed arming up of the Bosnian Muslims. The Bosnian war actually comprises several conflicts. There is the proxy war between Serbs and Croats, the war for an ethnically pure Greater Serbia, the war between the hill people and the city-dwellers of Bosnia, and countless small wars waged by local commanders for territorial advantage. There is no single solution to a multiple problem. Certainly a military intervention without a political dimension cannot hope to solve anything.

But there is a political framework already in place: the Owen-Vance plan. Mr Howell speaks as if he has not read the text. So for that matter does Mr Christopher. The plan is losing supporters everywhere — in Washington you have to search hard for anybody who regards this as anything more than a dead duck, but the small print contains all the necessary material for an armed intervention, and gives it some sense. There is, for example, a strict timetable for disarming the militias and for silencing the guns around Sarajevo and other cities. Implicit too is the need for a large ground force, perhaps 20,000 men, to enforce the plan. Put together with a thoroughly policed no-fly zone, this is a useful prescription for determined military action. Enough, certainly, to vent the frustration of Western politicians, and perhaps even enough to stop and reverse the Serbian gains in Bosnia.

That is why the Bosnian-Serb parliament has rejected the last bit of the Vance-Owen plan. They, unlike politicians in the West, know that the plan will properly test their military strengths. Bluster about arming Bosnian Muslims does not fool the Serbs. If this were ever approved by the UN, the Serbs would immediately block — and probably attack — all humanitarian aid convoys, since they could be barbouring arms, and Serbia would also invite to Belgrade the Russian arms merchants queuing to upgrade Serbian weaponry.

The next move must be to deploy all political, economic and diplomatic means to persuade the Bosnian Serbs to sign the Owen-Vance plan. The Clinton administration has to shed its overstated anxiety about playing into the hands of Russian nationalists. It is said that Mr Clinton should have agreed so readily to delay further sanctions against Belgrade at President Yeltsin's request. There are many ways of helping Mr Yeltsin, but sacrificing the people of eastern Bosnia should not be one of them.

There are some steps that should be taken quickly. They may lack the drama of Mr Howell's breakfast bombing missions, but they do demand imaginative leadership.

First, the United States and Russia should jointly put pressure on the Serbian president, Slobodan Milosevic, to bring the Bosnian Serb parliament into line. It is an entirely artificial obstacle to the Owen-Vance plan: it has no democratic credentials whatsoever. It does, however, listen to Mr Milosevic.

The West should tell the Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic that it will not accept Serbian capture of any territory allocated under the Owen-Vance plan to the Muslims or the Croats. Any such conquests would be reversed by Western troops on the ground once the Owen-Vance plan is in place. Dr Karadzic has been voicing threats to the West and has suggested that Western intervention would trigger a third world war. Now is the moment for the West to start threatening Dr Karadzic.

Third, the no-fly zone should be enforced even before the Owen-Vance plan is signed. It is not a military irrelevance: it would be the first visible armed challenge to Serbian power, and would be interpreted by thinking Serbs as a portent of future interventions.

A right schedule of sanctions should be announced. The Serbian economy is now so critical that it could well sustain Mr Milosevic. The old propaganda line that an evil Western conspiracy has been launched against the Serbian people is no longer holding water with urban Serbs. Many are ready to loosen their links with the Bosnian Serbs. For the first time for more than a year, sanctions could have a distinct political effect on the Bosnian war.

## Labour's latecomers

A FARCE of Grand National proportions has hit Labour's local election campaign. The party has managed to lose control of one of its councils even before campaigning for the May county council elections has begun.

To the acute embarrassment of the ruling Labour group on Cumbria county council, two Labour councillors have been disqualified from standing in the election in two of their safest seats. The reason? Their nomination papers were delivered three minutes after Monday's noon deadline.

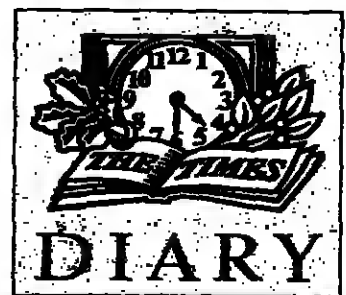
When the papers did arrive at Carlisle Civic Centre, Labour MP for Workington in Cumbria, appealed tartly to the door of returning officer Rod Brackley. But he was unmoved. After taking advice from the Home Office, Brackley ruled that both councillors, Mary Syth and Chris Southward, were disqualified from the election. The Labour group lost its two-seat majority over the Tories without a single vote being cast, as in that other great sporting tragedy, an enquiry is under way.

The man who bears the burden does not wave flags: he is the local agent Ian Aitken, who was en-

trusted with the nomination papers last Thursday. The investigation will centre on why it took him until Monday, the day nominations closed, to hand them in. Although yesterday he could not be contacted, his colleagues were inconsolable. "There will be blood on the carpet," spluttered one Labour party member.

Southward was close to tears, for the drama has opened up the possibility of a Tory win in his seat for the first time. "I am very distressed about what has happened. It is very unfortunate," he said. In desperation, Dale Campbell-Savours, Labour MP for Workington in Cumbria, appealed tartly to the Tories' better nature. "In an incident of this nature I would have stood down in favour of a by-election," he says. But David Maclean, junior environment minister, is firm: "If they can't even get their nominations in, they can't be fit to govern."

Sssshhh! JACQUES DELORS' plan to make Brussels more popular should be taken with a pinch of salt. Copies of a report com-



missioned to help change the EC's bureaucratic image are not available to the public — even though the main recommendation is better provision of information.

After four months' research, five experts drew up proposals to rebuild Europe's image after the Maastricht troubles. Consumer bodies were delighted by their findings and asked for copies of the report, "Reflection on Information and Communication Policy of the European Commission". But they were refused. "If you want a copy of the report on giving people more information, don't bother asking the Commission either in Brussels or London," says Stephen Crampton of Consumers in the European Community. The Commission had its excuse, however: "There aren't enough to go round. We don't print that many."

as not enough people are interested." That's EC communication policy for you.

### Staying put, sadly

BAD NEWS for Lord Linley and Michael Caine. The environment department has turned down a Boundary Commission proposal that Chelsea Harbour, where both restaurants, should be moved from Hammersmith and Fulham to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

The proposal proved popular among residents, whose council tax bills would be substantially lower in Kensington and Chelsea. Band H, the only band that residents would admit to, costs £980

in Kensington and Chelsea, compared to almost £1,100 in Hammersmith and Fulham.

Lord Linley is not around to express disappointment but Patricia Greenwood, manager of Linley's restaurant, Deal's, was saddened: "It would have been wonderful if we had zipped into Kensington and Chelsea. It would help at weekends when visitors are not regulars and often think we must be in Chelsea."

● *Fallout from the Aintree debacle continued in London on Monday when Charles Wilson, managing director of Mirror Group Newspapers and a former editor of The Times, announced pre-tax losses of £84 million. He displayed a copy of the Sunday Mirror with a front page which would have brought a smile even to the faces of disgruntled former employees. The headline he hadn't seen? "National Disgrace".*

contest, competing against Croatia and Slovenia, among others.

The 20-strong band begged, stole and borrowed the money to make a demonstration tape of a morose named song, "The Pain of the Whole World". The cash went on black-market oil to power an emergency generator at their makeshift recording studio under a Sarajevo apartment block.

Fazio competed initially against 11 other acts in the sub-zero temperatures of TV Sarajevo. Then, in a complex military manoeuvre, sending musical scores and tapes ahead, they had to get beyond Serbian lines to the heats in Ljubljana in Slovenia. The next hurdle is the strict contest rule that only six of the band can perform the song at the final. Who will get to travel? Perhaps a mediation job for Lord Owen? Or Terry Wogan.

● First the good news for Neil Kinnock in his pursuit of a career as media personality. Radio 2 has put him forward as its candidate for the "best newcomer to radio" category in the Snny Radin Awards 1993, citing his sterling performance as stand-in host last November on the *Finny Young* programme. The bad news is that he will not be among the winners. He hasn't even been shortlisted.

حكومة الاصل





## MESSAGE FOR PEKING

Hong Kong's timetable for democracy must not slip

Chris Patten, the governor of Hong Kong, has learned more about the art of negotiating with China in nine months than many professional Sinologists absorb in a lifetime. To Peking's increasingly shrill operators, he has opposed steadiness of purpose, tactical flexibility, and the saving sense of humour which yesterday prompted him to add to China's stock of epithets the image of himself as a "one-time wet converted into the Dennis Skinner of the Orient".

Irony may be lost on Peking: Mr Patten's theme is not. It is a good theme: it is popular in Hong Kong. He must, under whatever pressure from Peking, the "advisers" it has recruited in Hong Kong, or Foreign Office diplomats, stick to it.

Mr Patten's great innovation is to insist that the 1984 Sino-British Declaration is not just "a broad-based frill" to grace Britain's retreat from Hong Kong in 1997, but a binding commitment to respect Hong Kong's freedoms and way of life and its right to "a high degree of autonomy" after 1997. That means, in his view, that Britain has a duty to see that by 1997 Hong Kong has a credible if not fully democratic government elected under procedures which are "fair, open and acceptable to the people of Hong Kong". He has put forward proposals. He is properly prepared to talk to Peking, to listen, even to compromise: but he has not been and must not be prepared to connive at undermining the rule of law or reducing Hong Kong's legislature to a rubber stamp.

Since he put forward his proposals for constitutional reforms last October, Mr Patten has held the initiative. Uncertain how to respond and divided in its councils, China first, as he says, "played the man rather than the ball" with a campaign of what Mr Patten restrainedly calls "not very useful abuse" aimed at discrediting him in London and Hong Kong. Mr Patten and his reforms retained considerable support in Hong Kong despite this barrage and, in February, the governor published legislation for the

1994 and 1995 elections. China abruptly agreed to talks about talks. These collapsed last month, over Chinese refusal to accept Hong Kong's full participation in the talks, to set a date for them to begin, or even to make the talks public.

Mr Patten has gone a further mile, postponing until April 21 the submission of his bill to Hong Kong's Legislative Council for debate. Further postponement, as Baroness Dunn said yesterday in Hong Kong, is not an option. If legislation is to be ready in time for the 1994 and 1995 elections, it must pass LegCo by the end of its current session in July.

Yesterday in London, Mr Patten repeated his invitation to China to start talking soon, borrowing from the Chinese lesson to insist that talks must be "in a spirit of sincerity on both sides". But he was less than specific about what he would do if China agreed, only to repeat its successful filibuster over Hong Kong's new airport by dragging out negotiations to derail the electoral timetable.

The Hong Kong government announced yesterday that it does not intend to delay the start of the debate. The July deadline for its conclusion should also be adhered to, talks or no talks. China has had since October to put forward its counter-proposals. Mr Patten's plans still, despite China's onslaught, have the support of two out of three Hong Kong people. He has said that any agreement between Britain and China to change these plans must be acceptable to LegCo and the Hong Kong public. It must also be reached within Hong Kong's timetable, not China's, if "autonomy" is to mean anything now or in the 50 years after 1997.

Mr Patten is in London for consultations with John Major and Douglas Hurd, who should make this absolutely clear to Peking. Mr Patten's timetable is not a negotiating ploy. It is integral to his purpose of managing an orderly transition which protects Hong Kong's vital interests. It cannot be bargained away.

## INDUSTRIAL EVOLUTION

Politicians are making slow progress on manufacturing policy

Manufacturing matters: even the prime minister thinks so. Politicians of all parties rue the decline of Britain's manufacturing sector, but none has yet come up with a realistic recipe for recovery. True to form, yesterday's consultative document from Labour — *Making Britain's Future* — is long on diagnosis but offers few plausible cures.

In the early 1980s Britain began to run a deficit in manufactured trade for the first time since the industrial revolution. Not once in the past decade has trade moved back into surplus. It used to be fashionable to claim that services could simply replace manufacturing. Yet services are harder to trade: though manufacturing contributes only 21 per cent to national income, it makes up 80 per cent of exports. A country facing a £17.5 billion current account deficit in a recession therefore cannot afford complacency about manufacturing.

Robin Cook, shadow trade and industry secretary, intends to try out his hotchpotch of ideas on industrialists, financiers and workers over the next year in time to present an industrial policy to his 1994 party conference. The ills are easily agreed — too much short-termism in the City, too little investment, too few successful graduates going into industry — but Mr Cook's interventionist solutions are no panacea.

He suggests, for instance, that hostile takeovers should be made far more difficult. The predator should be forced to prove that the takeover would be "in the national interest"; but Mr Cook does not explain how this is to be defined. A company which made another more profitable by shedding staff and shaking up its management might be considered hostile to the "national interest" because it was increasing unemployment. Equally,

such a takeover could be judged to be in the national interest because it made the target company more competitive. To dull the fear of takeover might be a recipe for even more complacency in Britain's boardrooms.

The City is often accused of short-term attitudes that stunt long-term investment and planning. But pharmaceutical companies have thrived in Britain, despite their extremely long-term commitments to research and development. It is up to company managements to persuade investors that long-term investment will pay off. Pension funds should not be forced by law to lock their money into companies for fixed periods. In seeking profits, they are not only serving their pensioners: if they succeed in maximising the returns on Britain's invested savings, they also act in the national interest.

In some areas, government can create a legislative climate that helps industry. Mr Cook is right, for instance, to look at reform of bankruptcy laws and enforcing interest on late payments. Government can also improve the infrastructure of the country, both human and physical. What industrialists want most from government, apart from low interest rates, are better transport links and a better educated workforce.

Intervention, though, is what most politicians secretly hanker after. Michael Heseltine, self-styled president of the board of trade, wants to intervene before every meal of the day, though he has yet to explain to the country what he intends to do. Neither he nor Mr Cook has managed to convince a nation that suffered from disastrous interventionist policies of the 1960s and 1970s that interventionism 1990s-style would be any more successful. The burden of proof still rests with them.

## SCHOOL OF MORALITY

Ethical differences are no excuse for abdicating responsibility

Many British adults can remember a time when instructing children in standards of right and wrong was an accepted task of schooling. Fundamental decency and principles of behaviour were not only explicitly taught but were thought to be the context within which all other learning took place. Because this consensus seems to have broken down, the National Curriculum Council has brought out a discussion document on morality in schools.

The paper's sincerity of purpose is weakened by vagueness. There are few detailed mechanisms for injecting moral conviction into school life. Pupils are to be encouraged to explore deeper questions of personal identity and the meaning of life. They are to be challenged to examine their own behaviour towards others and to justify their conduct in moral terms. Every school will be required to publish a statement of its ethos, to which all of its members would be expected to subscribe. In practice, this will amount to giving parents who are already morally conscientious a chance to locate like-minded teaching staff. Not a bad thing in itself, but hardly an answer to national moral crisis.

While the council reaffirms the stipulation in the 1988 Education Reform Act that Christianity should be given most attention in formal religious education, it also notes the need to introduce other major religions

in the community and to treat their teachings with respect. This cautious tolerance is unlikely to satisfy the most vociferous multi-culturalists in education, or the more militant religious minorities. Those who aspire to reconstruct a consensus on moral education must ask whether the fact of a multi-cultural community means that all ethical absolutes must be abandoned. Arguably, the stage was set for moral relativism by the permissiveness which swept through schools in the 1960s. The conflicting religious and social assumptions which multi-racialism brought to the fore in the 1980s seemed to compound a crisis of cultural identity.

The National Curriculum Council and John Patten, the education secretary, have almost — but not quite — taken a stand. In the most discreet and carefully worded terms, they suggest that equivocation will not do: that total moral relativism leads to an abdication of responsibility. But they shrink from the forthright statement that all members of a society must accept the dominant values of its culture. By evading that challenge, they fail to note the encouraging fact that most religions and cultures share a common core of ethical beliefs which could provide a moral basis for education. Nonetheless, this paper does usefully affirm that moral differences are not an excuse for abandoning moral teaching altogether.

## Land blighted by its registration

From Mr Richard Burnett-Hall

Sir, In July 1990, when introducing the provisions for "public registers of land which may be contaminated" — provisions which became section 143 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 — Lord Hesketh, for the government, acknowledged that "this difficulty of blight on prospective sale or development requires careful consideration". He went on to say:

Information needs to be available to landowners and to regulating authorities where there are genuine problems concerning safety and environmental hazard. But we have to find a basis for alerting those concerned to the need for further assessment so that the dangers are properly understood and remedied or fears about contamination are refuted on valid grounds.

The only contentious issue at that time was whether the registers would be enough, or whether in addition the caveat emptor rule should be reversed in respect of contamination known to the seller (which would bring English practice into line with continental European jurisdiction). If there are to be no registers, that question could usefully be re-examined.

With hindsight, it is a pity that the registers had so cumbersome a title that they almost invariably became called, as they are by Mr George McDonnell in his very pertinent letter (March 31), the "contaminated-land" registers, something they were not intended to be. A "register of past uses" covering all the land in the country, the bulk of which would give rise to no concern, would avoid a stigma attaching to registration.

Many of the objections to the registers seem to be based on the false assumption that knowledge of contamination will not otherwise be available, and that stopping them will prevent the value of the property being blighted. It will not, of course — every competent solicitor is by now well aware that potential contamination is an issue that has to be considered when buying land, as it is for anyone financing the purchase.

The absence of registers will mostly just make transactions more complicated and expensive for buyers, although a seller may occasionally be able to pass on contaminated land to an unsuspecting buyer, and the cost consequences to the buyer's solicitors' insurers.

The real problem, which remains to be resolved, is what should be done with land that is contaminated. Without clear "clean-up" standards, binding on the local authorities and the National Rivers Authority, a would-be buyer or developer of such land cannot establish with any confidence before his purchase what he may have to spend to deal with the contamination.

Even relatively small variations in the standards that he must meet can have a very large impact on the clean-up costs. Without reasonable certainty on this, a buyer is likely to assume the worst, reckon it is too expensive and go elsewhere, which neither helps the seller nor remedies the contamination but prolongs the blight.

There must be compensation from the responsible authorities for the owners of houses on seriously contaminated sites on which building should never have been allowed except with proper remediation. It is a nettle that has to be grasped.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD BURNETT-HALL,  
McKenna & Co (Solicitors),  
Mire House,  
160 Aldersgate Street, EC1,  
April 1.

From Mr Jeremy Burrows

Sir, I think that few would dispute the desirability of some form of register of contaminated land which would benefit landowners, potential landowners and developers alike. However, the withdrawal of the government's plans is to be welcomed, as the proposals suffered from three fundamental flaws:

1. The register was to have been of land which had been used at any time for any of a number of "contaminative uses", irrespective of whether the land had actually become contaminated as a result.
2. The register would only have distinguished between land that had been used for a "contaminative use" and that which had not; any potential purchaser of the land would have been unable to tell whether the land was registered for some fairly trivial reason (e.g. it had once been a small boatyard) or due to some catastrophic contamination risk (such as a wartime biological-warfare research installation). This would effectively have blighted all registered land, whatever the reason for its registration.
3. There were to have been no provisions for the removal of land from the register, either because the contamination had been cleaned up or because it was shown that the land had not in fact become contaminated as a result of any contaminative use.

I have little doubt that if the government can produce a proposal for the registration of contaminated land which is free from these three defects, it is likely to be welcomed by all interested parties.

Yours faithfully,  
JEREMY BURROWS,  
18 Marina Court,  
Kempston, Bedford,  
April 4.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

### Case for longer custodial sentences

From Detective Superintendent David Doney

Sir, Once the Lord Chief Justice was seen to add his considerable weight to the growing chorus for an urgent review of the Criminal Justice Act (reports, later editions, March 22; March 23), it was predictable that certain elements would raise their voices in protest (letters, March 25).

Comments such as "Doubtless there will be fine tuning of some of the act's provisions" and suggestions that the Lord Chief Justice is irresponsible prove how far distant from reality such people appear to be, but to describe community sentences as being far more effective than imprisonment is ludicrous.

It is high time such people were reminded that our judicial system carries responsibility for individuals in our society other than criminals. Victims of crime are not afforded true consideration by many, outside of the police and victim-support agencies. They tend to receive lip service and are consistently patronised. They are regarded as a necessary component part of crime.

Many of them suffer quite outrageously at the hands of evil men, who now enjoy unprecedented levels of protection from the law. Witnesses are now more likely to decline assistance to the police and the judicial system, because intimidation, threats and violence are winning the battle against the rule of law.

If the police and the courts become so ineffective that the public lose confidence in our system then, inevitably, those who are able will resort to other measures. The old, the young and the vulnerable have little alternative — they will simply continue to endure the gross unfairness of a system unevenly loaded against them.

The public need to be in peace and tranquility, free from the insidious fear of violence, burglary and theft. If, to achieve that objective, we

must lock up the evil for longer periods, then let us resolve to get on with it — and the sooner the better.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID DONEY,  
Derbyshire Constabulary,  
Butterley Hall, Ripley, Derbyshire,  
March 29.

From Mr A. J. G. Heath

Sir, As a probation officer, I think the Lord Chief Justice's criticism of the new Criminal Justice Act's restrictions on judges' sentencing powers are more than justified. Prison should indeed be a last resort but not to the point when many serious offences seem to be followed by absurdly light penalties.

Probation orders and other community penalties cannot really be seen as a major deprivation of liberty — they are nothing of the kind.

The Chair of the Association of Chief Officers of Probation repeats (letter, March 25) the familiar notion that "the more often someone is sent to prison, the more likely he or she is to become a persistent offender".

This may be true for some but most offenders are young men who eventually seem to grow out of it. A custodial sentence, "learning the hard way", is often part of this maturing process when everything else has been tried and has failed.

Part of the problem is that the government wants to save money by sending fewer people to prison and then releasing them much sooner than before. This would be fair enough if at the same time highly supportive after-care hosts (which many offenders need) were not going to be starved of money through having to apply to struggling local authorities for top-up funding.

Yours sincerely,  
A. J. G. HEATH,  
Inner London Probation Service,  
103 Tierney Road, SW2.

### Treatment of ulcers

From Dr K. G. Wormsley

Sir, You report (March 24) that a consultant gastroenterology specialist has claimed that nine out of ten ulcer patients in the UK are being given the wrong treatment and are suffering unnecessarily.

I cannot agree with this claim. I know of no evidence directly linking *Helicobacter pylori* (stomach bacterium) infection with the cause of "ulcer" disease, or gastric cancer.

Secondly, the treatment of ulcers with combinations of drugs has not been satisfactorily and objectively assessed for more than a year or two. Standard treatment with gastric inhibitory drugs has been shown to

restore normal health to ulcer patients, provided the treatment is continued.

So much is this the case that in Tayside, where this type of treatment has been used continuously for more than ten years, it has been possible to satisfactorily treat individuals with ulcer disease and to markedly decrease hospital admissions, ulcer complications such as bleeding, anti-ulcer operations and death from ulcer disease.

These results are a triumph of therapy, both for individuals and for the population of this part of Scotland.

Yours etc,  
K. G. WORMSLEY,  
60 Bay Road, Wormit, Fife,  
March 31.

### Mubarak's Egypt

From the Secretary General of the Islamic Council

Sir, The interview which President Mubarak of Egypt gave to your Foreign Editor (April 2) should not be allowed to pass without comment or without your readers being offered an alternative exposition of what is happening in Egypt.

President Mubarak's adherence to the law and his attempts to teach the people that democracy and the rule of law are stronger than dictatorship sound laudable but, sadly, the truth is very different.

Since taking office in 1981, President Mubarak has not ruled for one single day without recourse to emergency laws. Tens of thousands have been arrested, many held without trial, incommunicado, without access to lawyers, family or medical treatment.

In many cases, if the accused have been brought to trial, if acquitted by the courts they have been routinely rearrested by the security forces. Torture is common. All this is well documented by, for example, Amnesty International, one of whose reports (October 1991) is entitled *Egypt: Ten Years of Torture*.

To understand what is happening in Egypt today the question that must be asked is who started the campaign

of violence? Who is responsible for oppression of the people, for arbitrary arrests of those whose only "crime" is to have the courage to speak their minds against unpopular government policies and to stand up for their basic human rights?

Recently, a mosque in Aswan was surrounded by police who opened fire on innocent worshippers killing at least 14 and wounding many others. There are many such happenings. For President Mubarak to compare the current situation in Egypt favourably to that in Britain is an insult to Britain.

It is also astonishing that the president had not heard of Sheikh Abdel Rahman "until I saw him on CNN". He was a defendant (acquitted, incidentally, and subsequently routinely rearrested — the reason he left Egypt in the most important trial to take place in modern Egypt and featured daily on the front pages of all Egypt's newspapers).

President Mubarak states that his government is strong, a cornerstone in the area and has the support of the whole country. In which case why his resort to emergency laws, special and military courts and arbitrary arrests?

Yours faithfully,  
SALEM AZZAM,  
Secretary General,  
Islamic Council,  
16 Grosvenor Crescent, SW1,  
April 2.

### Punishing children

From Mr Martin J. Miller

Sir, District Judge P. G. Hebbert wonders (letter, April 1) if there is any way of punishing children without injuring their dignity. Having spent most of my formative years subject to corporal punishment, I must stress that the last thing that was injured was my dignity.

I remain, Sir, your disobedient pupil,  
M. J. MILLER,  
114 Park Road,  
Prestwich, Manchester 25,  
April 2.

### Customers' revolt

From Mr John du Bois

Sir, Rather than revert to the term "passengers", in a privatised British Rail, why not "travellers"? This would reflect the image of adventure Mr Wilder (letter, March 30) desires.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN DU BOIS,  
3 The Old Shipway, River Road,  
Arundel, West Sussex,  
March 30.

## Whose fault was National fiasco?

From Colonel A. H. N. Reade

Sir, Before both false starts to the Grand National the starter repeatedly ordered jockeys to get their horses' heads back from the tape. On both occasions it appears that the tape was ignored from rising because this instruction had not been obeyed.

Amid all the recriminations no blame has been attached to the jockeys. In a race over four-and-a-half miles the frantic desire to gain a foot or two at the start is hard to understand. The starter does not press the release lever until the tape is clear. However, there is inevitably a time lag between the decision being made and the primitive mechanism completing its function.

If all the riders had sufficient common sense and control of themselves and their horses to keep back a yard or so, neither of these false starts would have occurred.

With 39 excited horses, the same number of adrenaline-charged riders, a gale blowing and a noisy crowd, the Jockey Club ruling that the horses' heads can be right up to the tape before the start seems an obvious recipe for disaster, and so it proved.

To blame the starter when a few riders were unwilling or unable to obey his clear and repeated instructions is illogical.

Yours faithfully,  
DAN READE,  
The Old Post House, Ipsden,  
Wallingford, Oxfordshire,  
April 5.

From Mr D. L. Ormerod

Sir, The comments of much of the press and those of the public whose voice we have heard following the unfortunate incident at Aintree last Saturday have highlighted one of the least attractive characteristics of the British people, namely their propensity to profess to know how to run other people's affairs better than those who have the specialist experience and the responsibility for the enterprise concerned.

It is significant, however, that the wisdom of the critics invariably has the advantage of being declared after the event.

Perhaps in this Holy Week people might allow themselves a little humility. They might also give credit where credit is due: many years of trouble-free Grand Nationals and other national hunt races for example.

Yours faithfully,  
D. L. ORMEROD,  
Kirkbank House,  
High Halden, Kent,  
April 6.

From Mrs Jill James

Sir, One of the most glaring faults on Saturday seemed to be the lack of anyone from the Jockey Club to make some kind of statement to the crowds on the course and to the millions watching on TV.

Surely an apology and a plea for calm and order, with the promise of a statement as soon as possible by someone in authority, was a priority and would have tempered the total bewilderment of all who were watching and waiting.

Yours faithfully,  
JILL JAMES,  
Fitzroy House,  
Norton Fitzwarren,  
Taunton, Somerset,  
April 5.

From Mr A. M. Dunner

Sir, Whilst all the Grand National punters are bringing a sigh of relief at having been assured that their bets will be returned, the bookmakers will have made a fortune in interest earned on these moneys, which they will of course be keeping.

Faithfully,  
A. M. DUNNER,  
(Executive Director),  
National Association  
of Bookmakers,  
130 George Street, W1,  
April 4.

From Mr Richard Barber

Sir, Simon Barnes is quite right ("Past masters of the blame game", April 6): let's have the sort of progress in the organisation of the National that the rest of Britain has experienced. Out with the old "oligarchy that used to run Britain", I say, and in with the Kevins of this world.

The race could even be moved from Aintree to Baintree, where most of them live.

Yours etc,  
RICHARD BARBER,  
Greenside, Tresco, Isles of Scilly.

From Mr A. A. Foster

Sir, Have we seen the first recorded example of horses being led by donkeys?

Yours faithfully,  
ALAN FOSTER,  
Cornerhouse, 54 Vernon Road,  
Leigh-on-Sea, Essex.

From Mr S. W. Allen

Sir, I neither owned, trained nor backed any horse in the race, but never have I been so enthralled by 20 minutes of sporting television. It more than made up for neither team sinking in the Boat Race.

Yours faithfully,  
S. W. ALLEN,  
Bayona, 22 Keepers Lane,  
Codsall, Wolverhampton.







**NICANOR ZABALETA**

have exhibited weaknesses which certainly have not been so apparent in the case of Lindemann. It is a high tribute to Lindemann's ability that his contemporaries are agreed that he is the greatest player in the history of the game. They have realised themselves that as a scoring force he has never been equalled, and it is reasonable to assume that they will benefit by the matches they have played with him. Until Lindemann began his tour the impressionism



The European Community's single market has started in confusion. Rodney Hobson introduces a report on duty free shopping

# Duty bound British join sea invasion

The Alice in Wonderland world created by the bargaining and compromises of the European Community has created no stranger phenomenon than the cross-border rush to grab alcohol, tobacco and luxury goods.

Despite the creation of a single market, thousands of Britons have found the cost of a pilgrimage to the supermarkets of Calais and Boulogne in northern France to be far outweighed by the savings in duty to be won by crossing a supposedly non-existent boundary.

In theory, the single European market introduced on January 1 removed international barriers in the community. The concept of duty free goods for European travel was supposed to vanish because travellers were not crossing boundaries.

Duty free goods are those on which no duty has been paid to any EC country. A Customs & Excise official says: "Technically, the goods have been bought on the high seas, even if the shop is on land, such as at an airport."

Duty paid goods are those bought within a country at an ordinary shop or supermarket. These will be subjected to local taxes and will not normally attract further duties if taken from one EC country to another, even though rates of duty vary within the community. Buying in a low duty country will not mean that the difference must be made up if the goods are taken into a high duty country.

To help Customs officials in case of suspected over-purchase of duty free goods, items are already stamped duty free or duty paid in the language of the country of sale when they are sold.

However, the Duty Free Confederation, set up by manufacturers, retailers and other interested parties such as the British Airports Authority, persuaded the British government to fight successfully for

the duty free regulations to be phased out over the rest of the 1990s rather than disappear at one stroke.

Torry Tucker of the Scotch Whisky Association (SWA) explains: "We said that we had to have a proper framework, a period when the duty free market winds itself down and the harmonisation of taxes is put in place. Spirits suffer heavy discrimination throughout Europe. It was unreasonable to remove the duty free concession while there were still large differences in tariffs. Mercifully, that argument won the day."

Mr Tucker points out that Britain is the second highest imposer of duty on spirits after Denmark and that a bottle of Scotch bought in Britain is £3 to £4 dearer than the same product exported for sale in the French ports.

Although the United States is the

on spirits in his March budget.

The Wine and Spirits Association is concerned that the Chancellor's 5 per cent increase in tax on wines announced in the Budget will depress UK sales further. The association questions the Chancellor's claim that the combined loss of revenue to the British exchequer from cross-border trade in 1993 will be £250 million for alcohol and tobacco combined. The lost revenue from alcohol is put at £100 million.

Peter Lewis, the association's director, says: "The trade has lost confidence. We are being forced to support the French exchequer at British expense."

"We know of legitimate traders who are shipping wine back to France in order to sell it to British cross-border shoppers."

"It is farcical. Excise levels must be dropped to the point where it is no longer viable to cross the Channel specially to buy excisable goods."

Both associations say that Britain has suffered job losses because of the high tax regime, a trend that will be exacerbated by the surge in Channel crossings. The SWA says that revenue to the Treasury from the sale of Scotch fell by 2 per cent in real terms last year, a loss to the UK of £25 million, and that revenue will fall further this year.

High-taxing Denmark has already been forced to make concessions on duties to curb the stream of shoppers travelling to Hamburg in Germany for clothing, household goods and alcohol. Despite the low VAT regime in the UK compared with other EC countries and the devaluation of sterling last year, there is little incentive for Europeans to flock to Britain in the hope of picking up bargains.

The hope is that loss of revenue and the strain on the balance of payments will force the Chancellor into action in this year's unified Budget in November.



Bounty hunting: every van does its duty as the British look for inexpensive drink in northern France

## Customs fights the fiddlers

Green and red channels have gone, but the rules on taxes are still being enforced

Long, gaily walks down the green corridors are no more. No longer do holidaymakers returning from abroad with a little over the duty free limit face that agonising choice: to go through red and pay up, or to go through green and try not to be transfixed by the icy stare of the Customs officer at the far end. Rodney Hobson writes.

Since the beginning of this year, the European single market has meant that there is just one route through Customs at ports and airports. The theory is that, under new rules, there are sufficient powers to prevent the holidaymaker or businessman from breaking the regulations in the first place.

A Customs official says: "There is no longer a formal check, but we are entitled to stop anyone entering the country if he or she is carrying excess duty free goods. We have the right to make random checks."

Despite the single European market, duty free limits still exist. Travellers over the age of 17 are

still allowed to bring in, duty free, 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars, one litre of spirits or two litres of fortified wine and two litres of table wine.

Travellers to and from Europe have a bonus. For them, the ration is effectively doubled, since they can pick up the allowance on both the outward and inward journey, provided they actually set foot on the other side.

The arrangement with duty free shops is agreed by all European Community member states and those operating out of Britain are monitored by Customs & Excise. Because the shops to supply only the allowed ration falls on the shop, it is the

shop owner that incurs the wrath of Customs officers rather than the holidaymaker.

Customs & Excise declines to disclose its methods of monitoring duty free shops but it says that selling more than the limit means that shops can lose their duty free licences.

It is in the purchase of duty paid goods that limits have been raised for travellers. Previously, there was a restriction of 1.5 litres of spirits and 300 cigarettes and it was not possible to bring in the duty paid allowance as well as the duty free allowance. That restriction has now gone.

Guidelines on the amount of duty paid goods that can be

brought in are 10 litres of spirits and 90 litres of wine — more than an individual can carry.

Strictly speaking, duty paid or duty free goods brought back to this country should be for personal consumption, although a person carrying large amounts of alcohol could claim that he was going to give a party. The Customs official says: "The duty free allowances are so small, so it is OK to give them away. If anyone feels so generous, they can give the stuff to me."

"However, reselling the goods is an offence, and if we catch you doing it, you are in serious trouble. You have got to find someone, such as a social club, who will dishonestly handle the goods, and the club would be in danger of losing its licence."

"We are also looking out for anyone who might try to sell duty free goods at a car-boot sale. We have been catching one person a day. We are hoping that the message is getting across that it is not worth the risk."



Super cheap: a Boulogne hypermarket

largest optional market for Scotch, more than half the Scotch produced is drunk in the EC.

In the United Kingdom, Scotch incurs double the tax imposed on wine, although a single measure of Scotch contains the same amount of alcohol as a glass of wine.

The Scotch industry has long argued that the Treasury is losing money by imposing high taxes. That argument has intensified with the cross-Channel stampede, leading the Chancellor of the Exchequer to make no increase in the tax

## Manchester is now twice as big on duty free.



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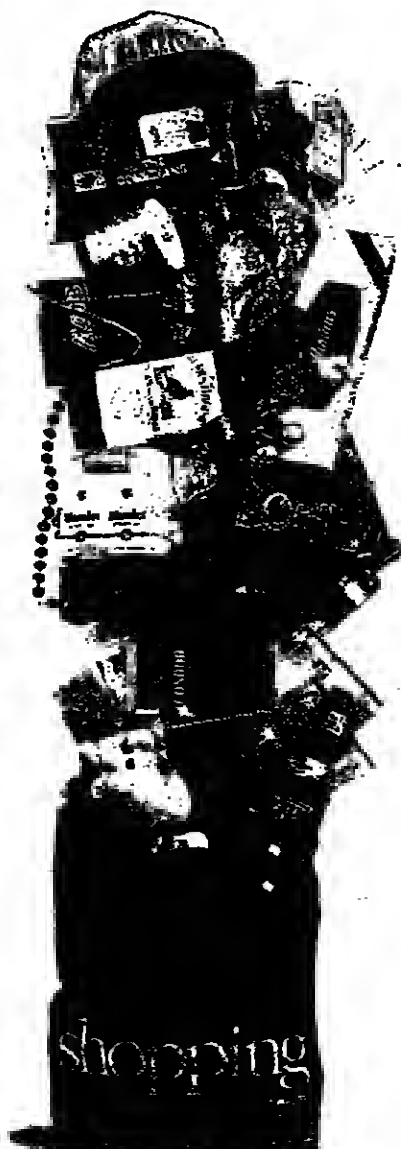
From camcorders and cameras to clothing and cosmetics. There's even a 20% duty free discount for transfer passengers.

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**BEEFEATER IS  
AVAILABLE IN MORE  
DUTY FREE SHOPS  
WORLDWIDE THAN  
ANY OTHER GIN.**

**BEEFEATER**  
PREMIUM GIN  
SOURCE: BEST 'N' MOST 1992/93

مركز duty free



# Flying visit to the shops

New policies on the shape of retailing at Britain's key airports have increased the value to top retailers of tax and duty free shopping by outward-bound foreign visitors. Britain is the second largest duty free market after the United States, worth about £725 million a year, says BAA, quoting Swedish research.

British retailers have a strong international appeal and sell well to foreign visitors, especially at their key stores in London and elsewhere in tourist-favoured localities such as Edinburgh.

Harrods, which sees its "signature" shops at airports here and abroad as a key means of maintaining its image, is among retailers that also have outlets at London's airports. Others include Burberrys, Aquascutum, Jaeger and The Scotch House in the fashion sector. Hamleys in toys, the Caviar House in marine delicacies and Mappin & Webb in watches and jewellery.

Sales to overseas visitors are so important to Jaeger that it pioneered a system for value added tax rebates to be paid as visitors leave the country. At Jaeger high street outlets where tourism activity is high, such as its Regent Street store in the West End, as much as a quarter of sales is geared to export.

Foreign visitors normally have to pay VAT and then claim it back later. Customs & Excise process the claim and give a full credit, for example,

Passengers are buying more and spending more at Britain's airports, Derek Harris says

through a credit card account. In the Jaeger system, an agent company operates a rapid cash-back payment using counters in key terminals at main airports, including London Heathrow. Jaeger advances money to the agent company so that customers can be reimbursed on the spot. Jaeger believes it makes good business sense to put up the money and carry that amount until it can be claimed back from Customs.

A London location pays off for other stores that catch the attention of foreign visitors. Fortnum & Mason has been a traditional draw in Piccadilly in central London, as have others selling in such quality sectors as tailored clothing, silverware and jewellery. Fortnum says that foreign visitors are an important element in its London sales. The most frequent buyers are Japanese, French, American and increasingly Italian visitors.

In Oxford Street, London, Selfridges often has queues at its first floor export desk, which deals with VAT rebate claims. In the 12 months

to the end of January, 53,350 foreign visitors from outside the European Community used the service, mainly for fashionwear purchases.

BAA, the former British Airports Authority, is investing £85 million to double retail space at its airports by 1996, mainly at Heathrow and Gatwick airports. Shopping at Stansted airport in Essex will also be boosted as its traveller volumes increase. Already Heathrow has nearly 100 shops and about 50 restaurants and bars.

Already one of the 30 largest retailing organisations in Britain, BAA will lose £60 million a year when duty free goods for nationals in the EC area are finally phased out in 1999. BAA revenue from all commercial activities, of which retailing is the biggest single element, last year, amounted to £291.5 million. This was a third of its total income and showed a growth of nearly 6 per cent over the previous year.

Barry Gibson, BAA's group retail director, says: "We wanted to make the airport a good place for shopping. That meant getting in plenty of the big high street names with which people will feel most comfortable, and ensuring value for money."

There is also growth at non-BAA airports. At the local authority-owned Manchester Airport, a second terminal, just opened, has meant a doubling of shopping outlets to about 20. These include stores for Boots, Sock Shop, Tie Rack and Body Shop.



Retail revenue: Barry Gibson, BAA's retail director at Heathrow

## TREASURY LOSES MILLIONS

### Channel shoppers threaten UK jobs

Buying liquor and tobacco elsewhere in the EC can be so cheap that Britons are hurrying across the Channel in large numbers determined to bring back all they can. Derek Harris writes.

Among those alarmed at the extent of this cross-border shopping is the Brewers' Society, the trade body for Britain's brewing industry. It found that in January, when the incidence of short cross-Channel trips is low, duty-paid personal imports had risen to nearly 10 per cent of the take-home beer market. That is equivalent to about 2 per cent of the total UK beer market and equal to the total production of a big regional brewer.

The society claims that cross-border shopping on this scale represents not only a £100 million loss to the Exchequer in duty and VAT on alcoholic drinks but threatens British jobs and businesses.

There are also reports of off-licence outlets, especially in the South East,

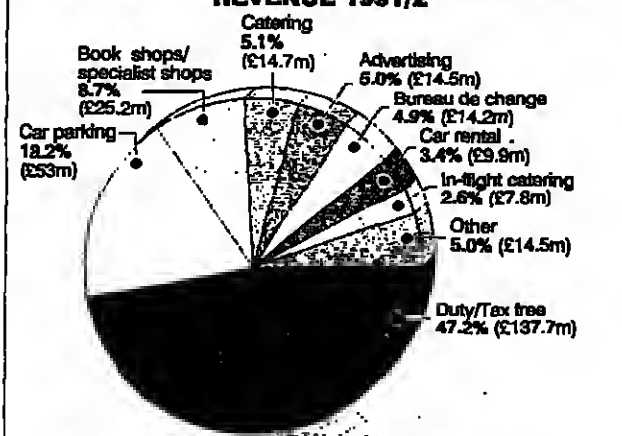
being threatened with closure because of the growth of such competition.

Robin Simpson, the society's director, says that illegal commercial operations are being started on the basis of the cross-border trade. "There is," he says, "increasing evidence of low-priced drinks being hawked around."

British drinkers are paying just over 36p a pint more in taxes than their French counterparts. A 20 pack of Benson & Hedges king-size cigarettes has a recommended retail price of £2.37 in Britain but in France the price tag is £1.79, and in Spain it is markedly cheaper at the equivalent of £1.51. Greece is the bargain basement: there a pack costs £1.28.

Cross-border shopping after the advent of the single market has been accepted as likely to produce a substantial UK revenue loss. The 1993 loss figure for alcohol and tobacco combined has been put by the Treasury at £250 million.

## A BREAKDOWN OF BAA'S COMMERCIAL REVENUE 1991/2



## Boat-loads of cheap drink sail the seas

Cross-Channel ferries enjoy a duty free boom as millions go shopping

Changes in the rules on duties have brought a bonus for the ferry companies. At this time of year, when boats are usually running half-empty, they are packed with vehicles and passengers on a one-day pilgrimage to French supermarkets.

Jim Hannah, director of communications at Stena Sealink, comments: "Ferry companies are enjoying a boom."

Passengers are stocking up their duty free allowance on the trips to France, buying large amounts of alcohol on shore. Then, armed with new boarding cards, they take advantage of a second duty free allowance on the way back.

Most come in cars or coaches, some drive lorries, many have shopping trolleys. The

supermarket staff. They come back on board with two or three cases of beer or wine. I see night workers go over during the day."

One environmentally conscious passenger took a pile of empty bottles back across the Channel and stocked up again.

Some shipping companies run their own duty free shops while others franchise the operation to companies such as Alders International, which manages the shops of the Cunard cruise liners.

Mr Hannah says that Sealink considered franchising but decided it was better to handle duty free sales itself. Duty free sales can be worth £80 million a year in profits to a line such as Stena.

The most heavily used route for the one-day shopper is Dover to Calais, a reasonably accessible and fairly short run. Other routes are

Sales can be worth £80 million a year

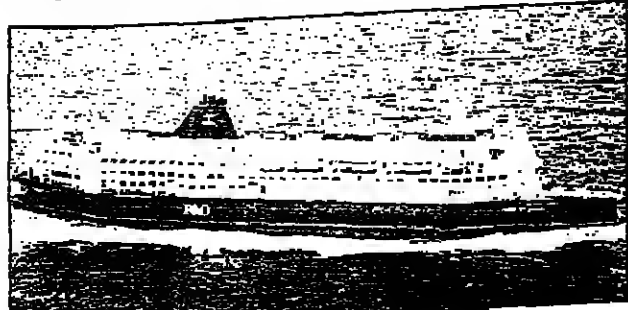
Harwich to Hook of Holland, Newhaven to Dieppe and the longer Southampton to Cherbourg trip. Two Sealink routes to Ireland — from Fishguard and Holyhead — also qualify as duty free runs.

P & O has several sailings, including Dover to Zeebrugge, Felixstowe to Zeebrugge and Portsmouth to Cherbourg and Le Havre. It begins a service to Bilbao in northern Spain on April 28.

Mr Hannah says: "We have been carrying out a highly successful promotion on the French runs, with return tickets costing only £1 and whisky, gin and cigarettes being sold at 1984 prices. Whisky cost only 65p a litre."

Ferry companies concede that without the profits from duty free sales, ferry fares would have to rise.

RODNEY HOBSON



P & O Pride of Dover ferry carries 2,300 passengers

## PASSENGERS TO EC DESTINATIONS

# NOW YOU'RE ALLOWED DUTY FREE AT LEAST TWICE.



On your way out.

And before you fly back.

Now, with the coming of the single market, you'll find you're allowed at least twice as much duty free as you were before.

That's because, under new EC regulations, you're entitled to your full duty free limit on each and every journey when travelling between EC countries.

So you can buy your duty free limit of alcohol, tobacco and

fragrances before you fly out. And as much again at the EC airport you travel back to the UK from.

Added to which, if you fly to other EC countries during your trip, then you can have your full duty free limit in each country you visit.

It's what you might call duty freedom.

These limits only apply to travel between the following countries: Belgium · Denmark · France · Germany · Greece · Italy · Luxembourg · Netherlands · Portugal · Republic of Ireland · Spain · United Kingdom.

**B.A.A.**

Heathrow · Gatwick · Stansted · Southampton · Glasgow · Edinburgh · Aberdeen

DUTY FREE SHOPPING



[illegible]



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TV LISTINGS

Share on the...  
BBC2 7.45pm Page 39

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Industrial revolution  
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HOMES 35

Knock-down  
bargains  
of Britain

ARTS 29-31

Dudley Moore  
plays Mozart  
and Gershwin

SPORT 36-40

Langer seeks  
to master  
Augusta again

MEDIA: BEWARE  
THE TV  
TALK SHOW  
Page 28

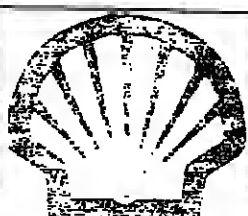
# THE TIMES

WEDNESDAY APRIL 7 1993

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BUSINESS  
TODAY

EXTENDING



SHELL and Esso are  
to spend £1.3 billion to  
extend, by at least ten  
years, the life of Brent,  
Britain's biggest North  
Sea oil and gas field  
Page 23

DEFENDING

As the economic  
downturn makes its  
impact felt across  
France, the country's  
defence industry is an  
unlikely star  
Page 25

ACCEPTING



TIP Europe, the trailer  
rental group, accepted  
a £71 million bid from  
General Electrical  
Capital Corporation of  
America  
Page 22

THE POUND

US \$ 1.5115 (0.0100)  
German mark 2.4375 (-0.0107)  
Exchange index 787 (+0.1)  
Bank of England official close  
(4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT-SE 100 2632.2 (-6.6)  
Dow Jones 3381.08 (+1.89)  
Nikkei average 19488.80 (-272.65)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 6%  
3-month interbank 5%  
US Federal Funds 7.25%  
3-month Treasury bill 2.32%  
Long Bond 7.01%

CURRENCIES

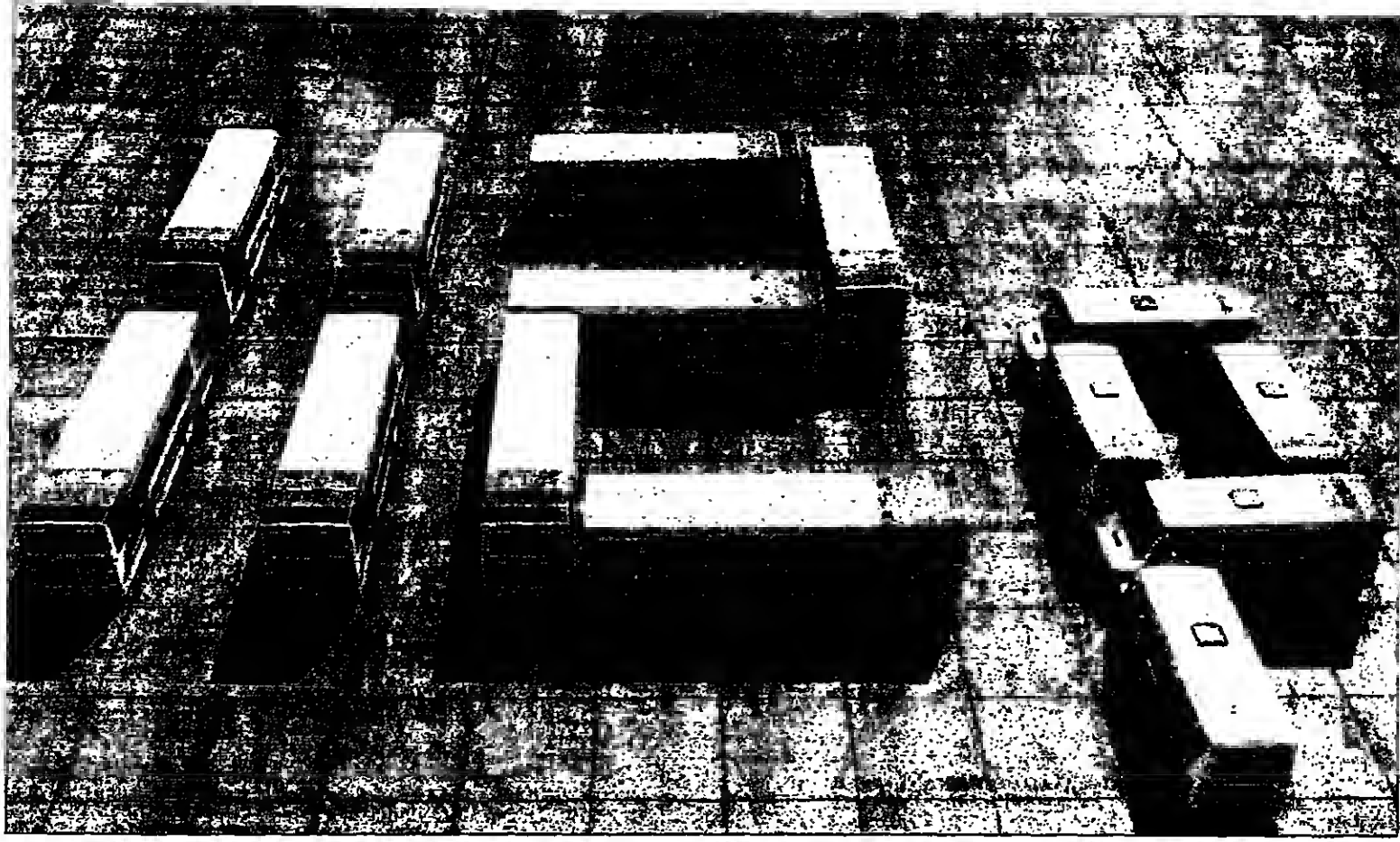
New York: London: £\$ 1.5130  
\$DM 1.6125 \$DM 2.4397  
\$Swfr 1.4885 \$Swfr 2.2544  
\$Fr 5.4613 \$Fr 8.2610  
\$Yen 113.90 \$Yen 172.97  
\$Sdr 1.0800 \$ECU 1.2540  
London Forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing (\$):  
AM 338.45 PM 338.40  
Close 337.70-338.20  
New York:  
Comex 338.95-339.45

RETAIL PRICES

RPI 138.8 February (1.8%)  
\* Denotes midday trading price



Pare shares: Stagecoach, the bus operator, is offering nearly 22 million shares to institutions and 12 million to staff and the public

## Stagecoach plans flotation at 112p a share

By SARAH BAGNALL

ALL aboard for the stock  
market flotation of bus operator  
Stagecoach, which is offering  
shares at 112p each.

The offer and placing of  
33,504,954 shares, representing  
28 per cent of the enlarged  
equity, values the Perth  
firm at £134.4 million. The  
offer, for which applications  
close on Friday, April 16, will  
raise £20.6 million for  
acquisition.

A total of 21.8 million  
shares are being offered to  
institutional investors, with  
the balance of 11.7 million  
going to the public and  
employees. After the sale, the  
company's founders, Brian  
Souter, chairman, and his  
sister, Ann Gloag, managing  
director, will hold 27 per cent  
and 22 per cent of the equity.

The company has grown  
rapidly since it started in  
1980 with two buses, which  
grossed £19 on their first

Dundee to London trip. At  
the end of last year, the  
company had a fleet of 3,300  
buses and a turnover of £140  
million. In the 36 weeks to  
January 9, Stagecoach made  
pre-tax profit of £9.8 million,  
outstripping the previous  
full year's £8.2 million. The  
directors are forecasting a  
£12.3 million pre-tax profit  
for the year to end-April.

The rise reflects the fall in  
UK interest rates and im-  
proved operating margins.  
Stagecoach, which expects to  
cut costs further, believes the  
best opportunity for future  
profitable growth comes from  
the government's planned  
privatisation of the remaining  
32 municipal bus operators  
and ten operating companies  
within London buses.

Other acquisition opportu-  
nities are expected to arise in  
the UK private bus sector and  
from overseas.

## Isosceles agrees £1.4bn refinancing with banks

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

ISOSCELES, the debt-  
laden supermarket group,  
has negotiated a £1.4 billion  
refinancing with its banks in  
a bid to stay alive. But some  
analysts are sceptical. One  
said: "Gateway still has a  
heavy debt burden. It is not  
obvious that it will survive."

Isosceles was created by  
David Smith, its former chief  
executive, in April 1989 to bid  
for Gateway, then a flagging  
supermarket chain. Its suc-  
cessful £2.2 billion bid, one of  
the biggest leveraged buyouts  
of the eighties, was contested

by a consortium led by  
Wasserstein Perella, who later  
became a leading shareholder  
in the new group.

Under the terms of the  
restructuring — the third in  
the group's history — the  
Gateway supermarket chain is  
effectively protected from the  
bulk of Isosceles' £1.4 billion of  
debt by the creation of Gate-  
way Holdings as a subsidiary.  
The new company will assume  
responsibility for £500 million  
of Isosceles' £1.4 billion of  
debt, but will have no liability  
for the remainder, which will  
continue to be held by Isosceles.  
Gateway will also be given

an additional £80 million of  
working capital, which in-  
cludes £50 million of new  
facilities from existing lenders.

David Simons, the chief  
executive, said yesterday: "Our  
prime objective was to reduce  
Gateway's debt and give it the  
money to take the business  
forward." Gateway will now  
be able to invest £100 million  
in the business over the next  
two years to upgrade systems,  
expand its discount Food  
Giant stores and relaunch the  
old Gateway chain.

A source close to the com-  
pany said: "Without this re-  
structuring, Gateway could

not have continued to exist."  
The chain was forced to service  
an interest bill of about £140  
million a year out of operating  
profit of only £100 million.

Interest payments will now be  
at a more manageable £45  
million a year, with no pay-  
ment due until 1998.

Isosceles' debt will be  
serviced by dividend payments  
from Gateway Holdings. A  
new board, initially consisting  
of Ernest Sharp, chairman,  
David Simons, Michael  
Biondi of Wasserstein Perella,  
and two non-executive direc-  
tors representing the senior  
and mezzanine lenders, will

decide the level of dividend  
payments. Mr Simons said:  
"Gateway will be the strategic  
driver of the business."

The remaining £923 mil-  
lion of debt has been restruc-  
tured into £256 million of  
senior facilities, £400 million  
of deep discount bonds and  
£267 million of new Isosceles  
preference shares. New ordi-  
nary shares will also be issued  
to senior and mezzanine lend-  
ers, giving them 55 per cent of  
the enlarged ordinary share  
capital. Existing shareholders  
will be left with 45 per cent.  
Wasserstein Perella has finally  
written down 70 per cent of its  
£400 million equity holding.

Although Isosceles will hold  
all share capital in Gateway  
Holdings, special shares will  
be given to senior lenders,  
which will give them 51 per  
cent of voting rights and  
effective control.

The proposals have been  
agreed by Midland Bank,  
Samuel Montagu, GE Capital  
and Wasserstein Perella.  
Approval will be sought from  
the remaining lenders by the  
end of next month.

Tempus, page 25

## Tesco rings up bigger market share

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR



Sir Ian: still climbing

TESCO, one of the big three  
British food retailers, has con-  
tinued to demonstrate the se-  
nior's resilience in the teeth  
of the recession with further im-  
pressive growth in sales, profit,  
margins and market share.

Turnover rose 7 per cent to  
£8.13 billion in the 52 weeks  
to February 27 and pre-tax  
profits advanced by 6.5 per  
cent to £581 million from  
£546 million, despite a £34  
million fall in interest reser-  
vable because of the group's big  
capital spending programme.

Comparisons for last year  
are made less impressive

because the previous account-  
ing period was for 53 weeks.  
On a like-for-like basis sales  
would have been up 9 per cent  
and profits 8.5 per cent. Sales  
in existing stores grew 1.5 per  
cent last year, but this was  
outstripped by an inflation  
figure of 2.4 per cent, and like-  
for-like volumes were down  
0.9 per cent.

Tesco's operating margins  
rose from 7.1 per cent previ-  
ously to 7.6 per cent. Sir Ian  
MacLaurin, the chairman,  
said the group's market share  
had grown from 9.4 per cent  
to 9.7 per cent, although the

group still stays as Britain's  
second biggest grocer behind  
J Sainsbury. Shareholders are  
rewarded with a final dividend  
of 4.85p, making a 7.1p  
total, increased from 6.3p.

Sir Ian said total sales since  
the year end had continued to  
climb by more than 9 per cent.  
The devaluation of the pound  
had had little effect on food  
prices as yet, but Tesco is  
expecting food price inflation  
to edge up towards 3.4 per  
cent from its current level of 2  
per cent.

Tempus, page 25

## Fisons suffers as drug work stops

By GEORGE SIVELL, CITY EDITOR

FISONS shares fell 25p to  
169p yesterday, after the  
group stunned the City by  
halting development work on  
tipredane, a steroid intended  
to treat asthma and rhinitis  
and one of only two drugs in  
the company's research pipe-  
line that were close to coming  
on the market.

The news is the latest blow  
to Fisons that in less than 18  
months has lost its chairman  
and had two products banned  
by the American Food and  
Drug Administration.

Over the past four years,  
Fisons has charged £21 mil-  
lion to its profits to cover the  
cost of tipredane. About £8  
million went on clinical trials.

On March 7, Fisons accom-  
panied full-year results with the  
statement: "Fisons' two key  
development compounds,  
tipredane and remaceamide,  
are progressing to schedule.  
Efficacy data from early Phase  
II clinical trials of tipredane,  
the new inhaled steroid, support  
the view that it provides a  
novel treatment for asthma  
without the side effects usually  
associated with steroids."

Cedric Scroggs, the chief  
executive, said yesterday that  
at a conference last week  
sponsored by Kleinwort Ben-  
son, the securities house, he  
had been "careful to shy away

from making a specific com-  
ment" on tipredane because  
he had begun to get an indica-  
tion from one of the trials  
that all was not well. The full  
result of the trials came in on  
Monday night and was an-  
nounced yesterday.

Tipredane was licensed to  
Fisons by Bristol-Myers  
Squibb.

Mr Scroggs said: "Despite its  
excellent safety profile, tipre-  
dane in early clinical trials has  
not demonstrated the level of  
efficacy which would be likely  
to prove therapeutically useful.  
The tipredane development  
programme was on schedule,  
with earliest introductions  
planned for 1997. Develop-  
ment costs have been written  
off as they were incurred."

Mr Scroggs added that  
Fisons was still waiting to hear  
from the American Food and  
Drug Administration over  
whether it wanted to reinstate  
the Holmes Chapel, Cheshire,  
plant which makes Opticrom,  
an eye treatment that had to  
be withdrawn from sale in  
America.

The group's horticultural  
division is up for sale, but Mr  
Scroggs said that the British  
and American parts may be  
sold separately.

Tempus, page 25

## Strategy that should start at home

To preserve the vestiges of  
Leyland DAF by the hands-off,  
free-market route was always  
going to be messy. Creating a fragile  
federation of new companies from  
one failed group leaves an awful lot  
to go wrong. The longer solutions take  
to set up, the more likely the trick is to  
fail. For the most part, the receivers  
have managed to keep suppliers in  
line and even actively co-operating  
but it only needs one member of the  
awkward squad, such as AP, to stop  
production. That would hasten the  
draining of business confidence and  
dealer loyalty and eventually leave  
little to save.

There are two lessons to be drawn  
from this. The first, drawn by the  
Labour party in its latest attempt at a  
business-friendly strategy for manu-  
facturing industry, is that government  
should adopt the continental ap-  
proach of intervening quickly to  
retain industrial capacity and technol-  
ogy. The second is that, if skilful  
receivers find it hard going to keep  
rival businesses working together in  
what appears their own direct inter-  
est, a Labour government would face  
a veritable uphill struggle to gain co-  
operation in "the national interest"  
from most businessmen, who are

deeply suspicious  
of its intentions.  
Given the lack of  
success of govern-  
ment efforts,  
there is certainly a  
market opportu-  
nity for an active  
policy to aid  
industry, but there is a fundamental  
snag. As I argued here last week,  
Michael Heseltine's attempt to back  
British business on the French model  
— but without money — was quickly  
exposed as a sham because industrial-  
ists were not prepared to muck in.  
Businessmen were well disposed to-  
wards Mr Heseltine's ideas, unlike  
those they associate with Labour.

Most, however, are conditioned to  
assume their own company's interests  
are likely to be opposed to anything  
different that Whitehall wants, and  
prepared to co-operate only in ex-  
change for large cheques from  
taxpayers.

Labour has, perforce but sensibly,  
decided to meet its image problem  
head-on by trying to work out policies  
with industry in the hope that it might  
come to office with something that  
will work and without the incubus of  
hostility from the people who would



GRAHAM  
SEARJEANT

have to make it  
work. Its docu-  
ment is full of  
tired old solutions  
and prejudices  
that, with luck,  
will be shed dur-  
ing this process. It  
also contains

many useful ideas. These vary from  
modest initiatives, such as industrial  
bonds, to grand strategies, such as  
adopting the Far East practice of  
government identifying and promot-  
ing through private business, new  
industries and technologies the coun-  
try needs to develop — an idea as old  
as the invention of the watch.

The first input from industry  
might be that Labour should  
really decide whether John  
Smith's slogan that "Labour means  
business" is anything more than a  
slogan. A useful starting point is its  
proposal that "the rest of Whitehall  
must understand that it also must  
support the national priority of re-  
building our industrial base. There  
should be a requirement for an  
impact statement to accompany new  
government policy on how it will  
affect British industry". This should

begin with party policy. One of the  
most depressing aspects of the demise  
of socialism has been the search for  
new enemies, which has led to a kind  
of indiscriminate iconoclasm. Former  
socialists, whether still in the Labour  
party or catapulted across to the new  
Right, vie with each other to attack the  
nation's established institutions. Gordon  
Brown, now shadow Chancellor  
but previously trade and industry  
spokesman, developed a particularly  
sterile form of populist consumerism  
taken up with gusto in the media.  
This targets privatised utilities, banks,  
building societies, even supermarket  
groups as *ex officio* enemies of the  
people. While Labour still likes to  
draw the distinction between roman-  
tic but ailing manufacturers and the  
successful but overprivileged financial  
and service sectors, the three are not  
distinguishable in any national indus-  
trial effort. British Telecom, for in-  
stance, is at the forefront of the sort  
of technologies we need. The privatised  
water industry is a world-beater in  
exportable new environmental busi-  
ness. If Labour is to change the  
culture of business from short-term  
concentration on costs to long-term  
focus on expansion, it will first need to  
change its own culture.

Tempus, page 25

## Upper class.



Use of only the finest leather, for both uppers and soles,  
lends our shoes an air of nobility  
which, in this instance, money can buy.  
Church's famous English shoes, from £110 to £220 a pair.



CHURCH & CO (FOOTWEAR) LTD, ST JAMES NORTHAMPTON NN5 5JB



# NIE sell-off may attract strong Irish interest

Advisers are bracing themselves for strong investor interest in the Irish Republic, fuelled by a television campaign that will be seen on both sides of the border

By ROSS TYEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

INVESTORS in both mainland Britain and the Republic of Ireland will be invited to register for preferential share allocations in the sale of Northern Ireland Electricity (NIE).

The £300-400 million privatisation will be the first public flotation of a state-owned company in the province, even though its residents are among Britain's keenest privatisation investors.

Each of Northern Ireland's 1.5 million residents will qualify for priority shares and perks as NIE customers under the now-usual loose privatisation definition. Government advisers will also send details to more than 750,000 Britons who have bought shares in previous privatisations.

But because television advertisements for the float, broadcast in Northern Ireland, can be received by 70 per cent of Ireland's 3 million population, advisers are also bracing themselves for strong interest south of the border.

Simon Linnert, a director at NM Rothschild, the merchant bank advising the government, said retail investors from anywhere in the European Community would be able to register for priority shares. But he added that the television transmission overlap added a new dimension to the privatisation.

"There is likely to be some interest from investors in the Republic," he said. The company and its advisers will make special presentations to the Dublin financial community. To qualify for priority, retail investors will have to register with the NIE share information office, which opened its hotline number, 0232-232 232, yesterday.

The arrangements for flotation of NIE will share many features of the sale of the regional electricity companies in mainland Britain, completed more than two years ago.

There will be special incentives for pensioners and the company's 3,750 employees, and discounts on bills or bonus shares for customers who are long-term holders. Shares will be payable on

instalments, and there will be "share shops" at bank branches to help NIE customers sell their shares early if they wish.

Retail investors will be encouraged to take up a large part of the sale. "We believe that this industry in particular is very appropriate for private investors," said Mr Linnert. "This is a company for the future and for the long term and which hopefully can be bought and passed on to grandchildren."

Institutions throughout Britain will also be targeted. Mr Linnert said he did not believe they would be put off by concerns over terrorism.

Investors will have little chance of assessing the merits of the offer until mid-May, when a pathfinder prospectus will reveal profits for the year to end-March.

Since the government sold NIE's four power stations in three trade sales, raising £350 million last year, the business now on offer is much more like the regional electricity companies in England and Wales than the vertically integrated Scottish counterparts.

The need to keep a substantial surplus capacity for an isolated system, a reliance on imported fuels, especially oil, and the absence of competition from gas, make power prices in Northern Ireland some of the highest in the United Kingdom and give NIE, which is chaired by Sir Desmond Lorimer, an important role in the economy of the province.

A requirement for heavy investment by NIE, both in reinforcing its transmission system and in the construction of a 250mw interconnector to enable power imports from Scotland also sets the company apart from its English peers. But this will provide strong upward pressure on power prices which only cost-cutting is likely to counteract.

Trade unions seem to have modified their earlier resistance to the sale. But there is no doubt the pace of job losses will accelerate once the company has been transferred to the private sector.



A first for the province: Sir Desmond Lorimer, left, and Sir Patrick Mayhew, Northern Ireland secretary

## Struggling TIP Europe in full-circle US takeover

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

TIP Europe, the struggling trailer rental group, has come full circle and accepted a takeover offer from the American group from which it was spun off in a management buyout in 1986.

The price at which General Electric Capital Corporation, the financial services arm of General Electric of America, has agreed to buy TIP is not greatly different from the price at which the group was bought by the management.

GE is offering £71 million and has the blessing of TIP's management and the biggest shareholder with 9.9 per cent of the shares.

The business was first bought out at £60 million and floated on the stock market at £83 million. But since the management took over the trailer rental fleet has doubled in size, to a little more than 17,000, while the group's debts have spiralled to £130 million.

TIP emphasised the difficult state of its markets with half-way figures to end-January that showed pre-tax profits reduced from £3.08 million to £2.25 million, after losses from a Dutch subsidiary that provides modular accommodation.

The interim dividend has been reduced from 0.64p to 0.4p, but shareholders accepting the General Electric offer will be entitled to receive it.

David Callear, the chief executive, said while the group's long-term prospects were as exciting as they have ever been, trading had seen a deterioration over the past 12 months and was showing no immediate signs of improving.

Although he fought shy of predicting his company's eventual financial collapse, Mr Callear said that without access to GE's source of low-cost funding, available by virtue of the corporation's AAA credit rating in America, TIP would find it difficult to participate fully in any economic upturn.

The bid, which represents a price/cashings multiple of 13 on the last reported full-year profits, therefore removed "any long-term uncertainty," he added.

GE, which has been in talks with TIP since last year, is offering 42p in cash for every TIP share, prompting a rise of 15p to 40.2p in the share price.

In November 1991, TIP launched a 40p-a-share rescue rights issue to cut borrowings after breaching banking covenants and also carried out a management shake-up.

HAL Investments, a Dutch finance company with 9.9 per cent of the shares, says it will accept if no higher offer emerges, and the directors, who speak for another 0.6 per cent of the share capital, have bound themselves to accept HAL's director on the board, however, is abstaining from any decision because of a perceived conflict of interest.

GE, expanding rapidly in the field of financial and other services in Europe and already the world's biggest container-leasing company, was bound until two years ago by a non-competition agreement in the trailer rental market in Europe signed at the time of the management buyout, said Robert Agams, chairman and chief executive of GE Capital's Modular Space subsidiary.

When TIP Europe went its own way the group retained control of the business outside Europe, which also trades under the TIP name.

Tempos, page 25

## Laird raises payout for 21st year

By COLIN CAMPBELL

THE Laird Group, the sealing systems and industrial products concern, has, for the 21st successive year, increased its annual dividend. Total 1992 payment rises from 10.2p to 10.5p a share, after pre-tax profits in the year ended December 31 rose from £21.3 million to £36.2 million.

John Gardiner, chairman, says Laird entered 1993 in a healthy financial position and is well placed for acquisitions and internal investment. Group profits this year will have to take the strain of lower demand from the automotive industry in continental Europe, although the devaluation of sterling is helping to ease these pressures, he adds.

Group turnover was £600.7 million (£523.8 million), on which operating profits from continuing operations of £46.3 million (£36.6 million) were achieved.

Laird says the proposed changes to advance corporation tax, as outlined in the Budget, should modestly benefit the group's tax charge and earnings.

Group strategy remains a strong balance between automotive and non-automotive activities. Mr Gardiner says. The shares fell 5p to 277p.

## Zeneca sells off Tribol lubricants to Burmah

ZENECA, the bioscience business of ICI soon to be demerged, yesterday sold Tribol, its industrial lubricants division, to Burmah Castrol for \$48.25 million. Tribol is based in California, operates in Germany and 50 other countries, and clearly did not fit in to Zeneca but provides a rare opportunity for Burmah to make an "in-fill" acquisition in specialty industrial lubricants. ICI picked up Tribol in 1985 when it took over Beatrice Chemical. It went into ICI's Specialties division.

Burmah is placing 4.5 million shares at 705p each to pay for the deal. It says the acquisition will not dilute earnings. Burmah shares yesterday fell 10p to 738p. Burmah says Tribol's marketing is similar to Castrol's and that it fits particularly well with Optimol, the German specialty grease and lubricants manufacturer acquired by Castrol in 1990. Tribol's main customer industries are mining, automotive, steel, cement and paper.

## City Centre advances

SOME recovery and the opening of new sites helped City Centre Restaurants, owner of the Garfunkels, Deep Pan Pizza and Filling Station restaurant chains, to advance 24.2 per cent in full-year profits. Pre-tax profits rose to £11.3 million in the year to end-December, against £9.1 million, on turnover ahead 12.3 per cent to £89.6 million. But Phillip Kaye, chief executive, said trading conditions remained depressed. Final dividend is 1.12p (1.01p) a share, giving 1.57p (1.46p) for the year. The shares firmed 2p to 85p.

## Peregrine advances

PEREGRINE Investments, the Hong Kong securities house that has a 24.9 per cent stake in Invesco MIM, the UK fund management group, lifted pre-tax profits 106 per cent to HK\$710.2 million (£60.7 million) for the year to end-December 1992. There was an extraordinary profit of HK\$68.3 million, up from HK\$15.4 million last time, from the group's share in the profit of Kwong Sang Hong International, a 37 per cent-owned associate company. Peregrine has lifted its dividend 26.5 per cent to HK\$0.105.

## Bensons cash call

BENSONS Crisps, Britain's fourth-largest crisps and snacks maker, is calling on shareholders for £5.3 million to help fund the building of a £6 million factory and warehouse at Kirkham, Lancashire. The five-for-four rights issue at 58p a share has been underwritten by Smith New Court, which is also joint brokers to the issue. Production at the new plant, which replaces three small sites, is expected to begin in December. Bensons, which is quoted on the USM, plans to apply for a full listing. The shares ended 6p lower at 66p.

## BICC stays cautious

BICC, the cables and construction group, has detected "encouraging signs of increasing business activity in the UK" over the past few months. But Robin Biggam, right, the chairman, said it would be some time before the benefits were felt at the group, which owns Balfour Beatty. Trade was picking up in Australia and America but Europe was still heading towards recession because of the cost of German unification, Mr Biggam said. He told the annual meeting ratification of the Maastricht treaty by the UK would help Europe to pull out of slump as it would end uncertainty about EC integration.



## Frost profits jump

PROFITS at Frost Group, the independent petrol retailer, jumped to £5.7 million from £2.5 million in 1992 as it added 57 new sites to its Save Service Stations portfolio. Frost has exceeded its forecast of growing from 79 to 100 sites, made when it floated out of the collapsed Norfolk House Group in 1991. The group increased sales by 50 per cent to £124 million in 1992, has almost nil gearing and seeks another 50 sites this year. Earnings per share rose 78 per cent to 7.9p and the dividend for the year, pre-script issue, is 12.1p (2p).

## Headlam buys rival

HEADLAM, the floor coverings and fabrics group, is buying Shalman, a Glasgow-based rival, for £2.1 million as part of an expansion plan that includes building a new distribution centre. The Northampton-based company has launched a £5.1 million one-for-four rights issue and announced a jump in pre-tax profits for 1992 to £1.1 million from £300,000 previously. Shalman had sales in the year to January 31 of £5.3 million and profits of £215,000. Headlam expects it to make a contribution to profits this year.

## Publisher's profits up

INDEPENDENT Newspapers, which includes publishing operations in Ireland and Britain, a 20 per cent stake in Australian Provincial Newspapers and a French outdoor advertising business, achieved record profits in the year to December 25. Operating profit rose from £16.6 million to £23.4 million (£23.4 million) on turnover 9 per cent higher at £169.9 million, and pre-tax profit rose from £17.97 million to £16.6 million. Total dividend is up from £1.4p to £1.55p a share. A two-for-three capitalisation issue is proposed.

## COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

### EPWIN GROUP (Fm)

Pre-tax £3.1m (£2.91m)

EPS: 11.8p (12.5p)

Div: 4.7p, mkg 6.8p

### JPECO HLDGS (Fm)

Pre-tax £3.3m (£3.38m)

EPS: 7.72p (8.18p)

Div: 2.3p, mkg 3.6p

### INTNL BUSINESS COMMS

Pre-tax £752,000

EPS: 0.53p (LPS: 2.9p)

Div: Nil (nil)

### FBD HLDGS (Fm)

Pre-tax £11.5m (£9.33m)

EPS: 17.47p (13.02p)

Div: 2.5p, mkg 4.5p

### ARAN ENERGY (Fm)

Pre-tax £2.61m (£5,000)

EPS: 1p (LPS: 0.14p)

Div: Nil (nil)

### INISHTECH (Fm)

Pre-tax £1.28m (£7.08m)

EPS: 37p (38.4p)

Div: 6.05p (6.5p)

### MEISEC (Fm)

Pre-tax £731,000 Loss

LPS: 5.58p (2.07p)

Div: Nil (3.7p)

Last year's total dividend was 6.8p. Turnover climbed to £43m (£40.3m). Company said year has started well and it is trading satisfactorily.

Last year's total dividend was 3.4p. Turnover rose to £19.5m (£18.1m). Evidence of increasing demand in defence and aircraft maintenance.

Final results. There was a loss of £4.5m last year. Turnover rose to £55.4m (£50m). Group said current year has started well in most areas.

All figures in Irish currency. Last year's total dividend was 3.8p. Turnover rose to £93.4m (£74.4m). Further growth expected this year.

All figures in Irish currency. Turnover rose to £45.1m (£29.9m). Oil and gas production increased to 4,170 boed (1991: 1,147 boed).

All figures in Irish currency. Earnings figures shown are diluted. Sales advanced to £52.7m (£40.1m). Gearing stood at 16%.

There was a loss of £257,000 last year. Turnover fell to £80.2m (£79.8m). Gearing is at 65.7% and reduction remains a group priority.

## Torday & Carlisle in the red

By OUR CITY STAFF

TORDAY & Carlisle, the engineering group, slumped into an operating loss of £0.7m in 1992, compared with a profit of £1.4 million in 1991.

After the failure to sell Oldham Signs, its troubled neon-lighting subsidiary, Paul Torday, chief executive, has decided to pile more bad news into the 1992 results.

In addition to a £2.5 million write-off on restructuring at Oldham, the company has chosen to take an £8.2 million hit on Oldham's goodwill, the sum has already been written off through balance sheet reserves and the provision is made to comply with best accounting practice. The combined effect of the provisions is to send Torday & Carlisle into a pre-tax loss of £13.3 million for the year, compared with a profit of £25,000 in 1991.

The company wants Old-

ham to break even this year, having reduced the size of the business from £15 million to £11 million.

Torday & Carlisle's other arm, DMI, which reconditions diesel engines for ships, has suffered from the decline



Torday: bad news year

in world trade, but Mr Torday says there has been a fragile improvement in the shipping market at the start of the year. Restructuring at DMI cost £0.8 million in 1992, with the closure of a UK plant and the concentration of resources on its reconditioning plant in Holland.

That leaves Torday & Carlisle with two surplus properties in the UK that are due to be sold. The company hopes that disposals will make a substantial dent in group net borrowings of £7.5 million and year-end gearing of 109 per cent.

Lack of distributable reserves means that Torday & Carlisle is unable to pay a dividend and the company intends to seek approval from shareholders for a capital restructuring, in due course. The loss per share is 81.8p (4.6p).

## Landlords fear legal change

By CARL MORTISHED

LANDLORDS fear government plans to abolish privacy of contract on commercial property leases in England and Wales will dent signs of a revival in property investment.

They predict a flurry of court cases over interpretation of the new law. And Scottish landlords say the proposals may not help tenants.

Lord MacKay, the Lord Chancellor, said last week the government would implement most of the proposals for reforming commercial leases in the 1988 Law Reform Commission report. "Landlord and Tenant Privacy of Contract". These would abolish a principle whereby a tenant remains liable for rent due on a lease

even after he has assigned it to a third party. Many former tenants are being forced into bankruptcy because of the failure of assignees and the resulting claims by landlords for payment of rent.

The commercial property industry was relieved the reforms would not affect existing leases but John Parry, managing director of Harmerston, said property would become a less attractive investment. "To me, it is a tenant-loaded proposal. It puts us in a worse position than in Scotland," he said.

In England and Wales, currently a landlord cannot unreasonably refuse to consent to the assignment of a lease and privacy of contract provides the property owner with a guarantee of income

from the party to whom he originally let the property. If a subsequent tenant fails to pay.

The property industry sees little logic for reform when the market is awash with space and tenants have the upper hand in negotiations. Richard Lay, commercial property spokesman at the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, says in many cases privacy of contract is excluded from leases. Mr Parry and others in the industry want measures to ensure they have some control over the quality of assignees. Without that, he says, a two-tier investment market could result, where post-reform leases would suffer from uncertainty of covenant and be valued accordingly.



## United Friendly Group plc

### RESULTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1992

- Pre-tax profits up 16.4% to £23.4 million.
- Earnings per share up 13.9% to 23.0 pence.
- Dividends per share for the year up by 17.9% to 14.5 pence.
- Premium income up 22% to £289 million.
- New life annual premiums up by 26% to £25.9 million.

	1992 £m	1991 £m
Premiums—Life	200.6	165.8
—General	88.1	71.7
Life business profits	11.2	10.7
General business underwriting loss	(1.9)	(4.0)
Shareholders other income and expenditure	14.1	13.4
Profit attributable to shareholders	18.9	15.6
Dividend per share	14.5p	12.3p
Earnings per share	23.0p	20.2p

The board recommends the payment of a final dividend of 9.6p per share to be paid on 20 May 1993 to shareholders on the register at the close of business on 29 April 1993. The notice for the annual general meeting to be held on 7 May 1993 and the 1992 annual report and accounts will be sent to shareholders on 13 April 1993. Copies of the annual report may be obtained from the Secretary.

United Friendly Group plc, 42 Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 9HE  
Telephone: 071-828 5844 Fax: 071-261 9077

Handwritten text in a box: 1250



# Shell and Esso to spend £1.3bn on extending Brent

By GEORGE SIVELL  
CITY EDITOR

**An unprecedented feat of engineering will keep Brent in production until the year 2008, adding 34 million barrels of oil, and provide jobs for 3,000 contract staff**

SHELL and Esso are to spend £1.3 billion to extend, by at least ten years, the life of Brent, Britain's biggest North Sea oil and gas field that produces 13 per cent of the nation's oil and 10 per cent of its gas. Shell shares rose 9p to 586.5p.

The extension has been planned for the past three years and Shell said the work would have gone ahead even if the government had not, in the recent Budget, cut the rate of petroleum revenue tax on mature fields from 75 to 50 per cent. But Shell said it would benefit from paying PRT at a lower rate.

Shell and Esso have spent £3 billion on Brent since the decision to develop the field

was taken in 1972. Production began in 1976. Plans for the extension were approved by Tom Eggar, energy minister, yesterday.

It will add 34 million barrels of oil, equivalent to a small oil discovery, and 1.5 trillion cu ft of gas, equal to the national reserves. So far 73 per cent of recoverable oil reserves and 45 per cent of its gas has been produced.

Shell said the main benefit would be increased gas production. Only 20 per cent of the original gas in place will

have to be left behind. Oil output from Brent peaked at 416,000 barrels per day in 1985/86 and will average 219,000 bpd in 1993. At the end of the construction period in 1998 output will be 165,000 bpd, Shell said.

The field was due to run out in 1998 but will be extended to at least 2008 by an unprecedented feat of engineering which will provide jobs for 3,000 contract staff. The extra oil and gas can only be extracted by reducing the pressure in the oil reservoir which in turn requires new processing equipment to be installed.

The equipment will gradually be replaced while the field is kept in operation in work that will take from 1993 to 1998 to complete. Three contracts have already been placed by Shell, which operates the field on behalf of the Esso joint venture. SLP Engineering will build a new process module. Consafe Engineering will design and build a new accommodation module and Heeremac VOF of Leiden in the Netherlands will supply heavy lifts.

Amec, the existing Brent engineering contractor, and AOC and Wood Group, the two maintenance and modification services contractors, are expected to play leading roles in the project.

Dr Chris Fay, managing director of Shell UK Exploration and Production, said: "It will be increasingly important to the economy to find ways of extending the life of existing fields. The United Kingdom has 31 billion barrels of oil and natural gas liquids and 127 trillion cu ft of gas. A third of the liquids and almost a third of the gas have now been produced."

## Chevron agrees joint plan for Kazakh oil

FROM REUTERS IN KAZAKHSTAN

CHEVRON Corp and the former Soviet republic of Kazakhstan have agreed to develop one of the world's richest oilfields.

The Kazakh president, Nursultan Nazarbayev, and Kenneth Derr, Chevron's chief executive, signed an agreement creating Tengizchevroil in a deal worth up to \$20 billion. It is the biggest of its kind between an oil multinational and a member of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The 40-year agreement, expected to make Kazakhstan a major oil exporter within 10 years, offers equal shares to Chevron Overseas Company and the Kazakh state firm Tengizchevroil.

Tengizchevroil plans to increase annual output from the Tengiz and Korymbay fields to more than 35 million tonnes (700,000 bpd) by 2010, com-

pared with 3.25 million tonnes (65,000 bpd) now. Kazakhstan is expected to produce 27 million tonnes (540,000 bpd) of oil in 1993, little changed from last year. The joint venture aims to add 12 million tonnes a year (240,000 bpd) in the near future and export three million tonnes this year.

Under the agreement Chevron will provide technology, expertise and finance to develop the two fields. Joint investment could total \$20 billion. Neither side has explained how they have resolved legal and tax problems which had stalled the project.

Kazakhstan should receive 80.4 per cent of net revenues, and Chevron 19.6 per cent. Regional authorities will receive \$50 million over five years for social purposes such as road-building and hospitals.



Grounds for cheer: Martin Edwards, chief executive of Manchester United, where work on the Stretford End is nearing completion

## Man Utd attracts City fans

By PHILIP PANGALOS

TWO quoted football clubs, both riding high in their respective divisions, produced mixed corporate news.

First-half figures from Manchester United, in second place in the Premier League with hopes of winning the title still strong, went in a league of their own and pleased the City. The club made pre-tax profits of £4.6 million, after transfer fees, in the six months to end-January, compared with £3.2 million last time, as turnover rose to £13 million (£12.4 million).

Net transfer fees at Manchester United, where Martin Edwards is chief executive, were £285,000 (£223 million). However, redevelopment of the Stretford End stand caused substantial disruption; capacity was reduced from 47,000 to 33,000 at the start of the season, but has since risen to 40,000, with an average attendance of 35,000. Capacity will be 45,000 on completion of the work, which is on schedule and within budget.

Professor Sir Roland Smith, chairman, said the redevelopment would provide a further 46 executive boxes, all sold, next season and 846 executive seats.

Earnings climb to 25.8p (24p) a share. The interim dividend is maintained at 6p. The shares firmed 10p to 412p, against 1991's placing price of 385p.

CI Shares in Millwall Holdings, the USM-quoted football club trying to develop an all-seater stadium, fell 11p to 34p after the group accompanied a trading loss of £740,000 (£1.1 million loss) in the six months to end-November with a rescue rights issue.

Millwall is raising £3.2 million through a three-for-two rights issue, at 2p a share, to the new Senegal Fields stadium, which the club says is essential to avoid "serious financial difficulties".

Turnover was £1 million (£2.44 million) and the loss fell to 0.66p (0.98p loss) a share. There is again no dividend.

## Insurer increases profit on life income

By SARAH BAGNALL, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

LOWER losses from the general business account coupled with increased profits from the life business helped lift profits at United Friendly Group, the life and general insurer.

Pre-tax profits at United, which last month announced it is following in the footsteps of other insurers, including Legal & General, by looking at ways of distributing its surplus life-fund reserves to shareholders, advanced 16 per cent to £23.4 million for the year to end-December 1992.

Part of the increase was due to a £500,000 rise in investment income to £9 million and

an £800,000 increase in realised capital gains transferred from the investment reserve, to £6.8 million.

The life business was buoyant, profits advanced from £10.7 million to £11.2 million, helped by a fall in costs for with the development of unit-linked business. Improved claims experience helped the general business account cut its losses to £1.9 million.

Earnings per share rose 14 per cent to 23p while the final dividend was lifted from 8.1p to 9.6p, making a total for the year of 14.5p, an increase of 17 per cent from last time.

## RJB heads for market at £100m

RJB Mining, one of the private mining contractors that has expressed interest in parts of British Coal, is coming to the market with a price tag of more than £100 million. It aims to raise fresh funds for expansion early this summer.

RJB, which has negotiated contracts to supply National Power and PowerGen, made £16.4 million of operating profit last year on a turnover of £73.9 million.

### Adwest buys

Adwest, the mini-conglomerate, has bought Spectar Group, a maker of electrical switchgear, for £2.13 million. Spectar will work in parallel with Adwest's Field & Grant subsidiary.

### Wilkes in red

James Wilkes incurred a pre-tax loss of £6.41 million (£950,000 profit) for the year to end-December. A reduced final dividend of 0.25p (5.25p) makes a total of 3.5p (10p). Gearing was trimmed from 164 to 98 per cent.

## Aegis passes payout after heavy costs

By COLIN CAMPBELL

AEGIS Group, the media buyer, charged £22 million of reorganisation costs and £22 million of closure costs against 1992 results to end the year showing a £1.9 million pre-tax loss against 1991 pre-tax profit of £54.4 million.

The year's final dividend has been passed, leaving only 1.375p (5.85p) for the year. Aegis says no dividends on ordinary shares will be paid in 1993. The shares, which 18 months ago traded at 217p, fell by 24p to 18p yesterday.

Frank Law, chairman, said Aegis now concentrates on its core business and has disposed of sold operations in full-service advertising, sponsorship and broadcasting. A new management team is in place and "we look forward to the future with confidence but not complacency", he added.

The Carat Group, owned by Aegis, had media billings of \$6.5 billion and a 12 per cent share of the European display advertising market in 1992. The group says the Conseil de la Concurrence in France has

been conducting a two-year enquiry into the French advertising and media market. Its findings have not been announced.

"The Conseil could issue injunctions aimed at making the market more competitive and impose fines on industry participants. These could have a material effect on the group's results," Aegis notes.

The Aegis reorganisation last year included the transfer of some management functions from London to Paris and 20 of the top French management voluntarily cut their salaries by between 7 and 25 per cent. Share listings in Paris and New York were cancelled, but retained in London.

The group has extended its banking facilities and there have been board changes, including the appointment, as non-executive directors, of Sir Kit McMahon, former Midland Bank chairman, and Sir Peter Thompson, former National Freight Corporation chairman and chief executive.

## Top salary falls at the C&G

By LINDSAY COOK  
MONEY EDITOR

THE total salary package of Andrew Longhurst, chief executive of the Cheltenham & Gloucester building society, has fallen by more than £25,000, from £306,041 to £280,936 last year.

The reduction follows a profits fall for the sixth-largest society by 30 per cent to £130.6 million in 1992. This meant that none of the society's staff received its 5 per cent bonus.

In 1991 senior executives had a different bonus scheme, which accounted for up to a third of their salary. It is possible though that Mr Longhurst will remain the highest-paid building society chief executive.

At Nationwide, the second-largest society, which ended its financial year at the weekend, Tim Melville-Ross earned £220,000 in 1991-2 and stands to get up to a 30 per cent bonus for the recently completed year. The bonus is paid to 100 top executives.

## Daimler-Benz says profits may fall 30%

FROM COLIN NARBROUGH  
IN STUTTGART

DAIMLER-BENZ, Germany's flagship car-to-aerospace group, expects its net profit to fall 25 to 30 per cent this year after a big drop in first-quarter sales.

The sharp deterioration in profits follows a worsening last year to DM1.45 billion from DM1.94 billion in 1991.

Despite the profits outlook, Daimler yesterday announced it was to pay an unchanged DM13 dividend on its 1992 results and still intends to press ahead this autumn, probably in September, with a full listing on the New York Stock Exchange.

The New York listing, the first by a blue chip German company, forms part of Daimler's strategy of having a presence on all big stock markets. The Singapore exchange will be next. After the New York listing, the company may launch a rights issue.

Edzard Reuter, the managing board chairman, speaking in Stuttgart at a news conference on the 1992 results, said that Daimler had misjudged economic conditions badly



Failed to see downturn in demand: Edzard Reuter

last year, having failed to foresee the downturn in demand for cars and trucks. Its Mercedes-Benz automotive division saw sales dip from DM67.1 billion to DM66.5 billion. The division's net profit was almost halved to DM849 million and the workforce cut by 15,000.

Herr Reuter said the economic "onsedive" in Germany since last summer

had gained momentum that surprised even the most hardened pessimists. Daimler sales in the first quarter were about 25 per cent down on the same quarter last year.

"We must face up to the fact that 1993 is going to be even tougher than the second half of 1992," he said. The Daimler results follow last week's announcement by the Volkswagen group, Europe's

biggest carmaker, that it had a net loss of DM1.25 billion in the first quarter.

Herr Reuter said Daimler was not alone in its predicament, but called for a carefully planned and cautious response to the downturn, so as not to destroy what might be needed later. This appeared to be a swipe at the aggressive policies adopted by the reshaped VW management board, which is planning a radical cost-cutting programme across its automotive empire. VW's unprecedented recruiting campaign among General Motors executives and managers has led GM to take out a court injunction against VW to prevent it from picking off further GM staff.

Despite the setback, Herr Reuter said he would keep his group on its present course with more production undertaken outside Germany and greater efficiencies and cost-cutting pursued at home. But he stressed Daimler was not about to become a volume car producer and had no intention of withdrawing production from Germany.

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Tue	AZ 287	0725	1055	Tue	AZ 286	1940	2035

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# Leclerc tank fires loudest shot as France guns for arms deals

Alan Tillier finds the outlook brighter for a French defence industry that suffered in the post-1989 detente and recession

The three-star Troisgros and other noted restaurants in and around the Loire River town of Roanne, northwest of Lyons, can look forward to increased business now that foreign arms buyers are heading for the local factory making the Leclerc tank.

At the same time, the Dassault assembly plant for Mirage jets at Bordeaux has been buoyed by foreign sales, while the large French missile industry, much of it situated at Bourges, south of Paris, and in the surrounding, duck-hunting Sologne countryside, has bulging order books. Recent news has been good for the French arms industry.

Hailed by the French as the tank for the 21st century, the Leclerc won a Fr30 billion order from the United Arab Emirates in February. The deal was struck despite strong competition from the General Dynamics Abrams M1-A2 that saw service in the Gulf war and, earlier, from Vickers' Challenger 2. The order for 390 tanks and 46 armoured support and recovery vehicles rounded off a record year for exports. The French had sold about Fr52 billion worth of Mirage fighters, missiles and battlefield equipment.

The sales marked a comeback for the world's third largest defence industry, which had been hit by a combination of post-1989 detente and recession that led to pared defence budgets in France, as elsewhere.

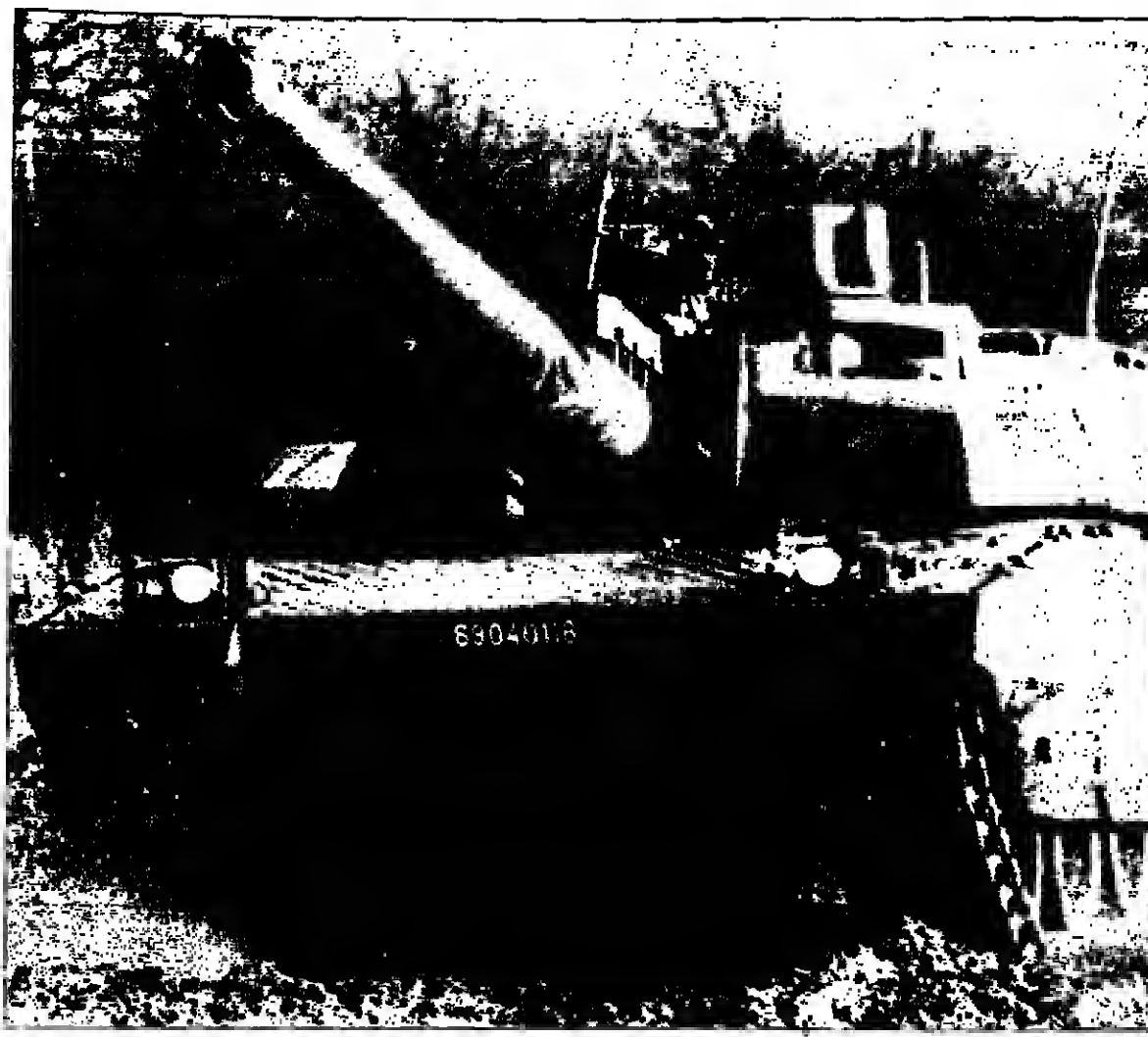
The workforce in French arsenals and plane factories has shrunk from 700,000 a decade ago to just under 400,000, of which 248,000 are directly employed. The French defence budget has "stabilised" at Fr195 billion this year, and is much the same as the British figure.

Faced with leaner times, France has focused on new technology, not only for their tank but also for smart missiles (among them a new Exocet), "intelligent" ammunition and for the Mirage fighter. The latter reversed a seven-year decline in exports when it won a Fr22 billion Taiwan order for 60 Mirage 2000-5s, despite loud protests from Peking last year.

As much as a quarter of this contract could go to Matra for the Mica air-to-air missile, which equips the Mirage. That would further strengthen the E2.5 billion order book of Matra, Europe's leading missile company.

French arms makers are also seeking to expand their co-operation agreements, notably with European neighbours, including Britain. "Our business is becoming increasingly Europeanised," said a spokesman for Thomson-CSF, maker of electronics systems, which has signed joint ventures with Ferranti (sonar systems) and Pilkington (optics) and, more recently, with Short Brothers. It had already bought Link Miles, British makers of flight simulators.

At Giat Industries, the new tank will



French force majeure: the Leclerc has been hailed by the French as the tank for the 21st century

need to win more export contracts to recoup part of the Fr47 billion cost of developing and making the Leclerc. However, Giat, a three-year-old state-owned group of ten French arms makers, successors to the one created in 1690 by Louis XIV, hopes that the freedom it now enjoys to export directly without passing through state intermediaries will lead to profits by 1995. Its last published accounts showed losses in 1991 of Fr400 million.

The recovery of French arms exports was stressed in March by Pierre Joxe, the former Socialist defence minister. When bowing out on the eve of the parliamentary elections, he pointed to a 46 per cent increase in arms exports last year. M. Joxe gave himself much of the credit for the Emirates deal, the Leclerc order following others for the AMX tank and Mirages.

The Leclerc, with its 120mm gun, is ten tonnes lighter than its main rival, the Abrams, and therefore faster — 44mph on roads and more than 30mph across rough terrain. At a metre shorter, it is a more elusive target. An automatic loading mechanism means a three-man crew instead of the customary four. The French claim that the tank is a generation ahead of the Abrams, the German Leopard and the Challenger.

The Emirates sale was important in establishing the Leclerc's credibility beyond France. So far, the only other client is the French Army, which has reduced its original requirement of 1,300 to 650. Giat agreed to the installation in the export version of a German MTU engine and to generous

offset agreements involving technological and industrial assistance for the Emirates on other projects.

The next market in French sights for the Leclerc is Sweden, which seeks up to 200 modern tanks. The Swedes want foreign partners, preferably European, to share the cost of their large defence industry. The Leclerc is competing with the Abrams and the Leopard 2, but French chances have increased after the signing of Franco-Swedish bilateral defence agreements, notably with Bofors for the joint development of a "smart" artillery shell equipped with guidance system. Bofors believes the world smart artillery market could be worth several billion dollars. The French also want to equip the Swedish Gripen fighter with Mica air-to-air missiles.

The policy of Thomson-CSF has been pro-European since it abandoned its efforts to buy American LTV missiles because of "US protectionist pressure". The group has targeted Italy and Britain, where it considers it has received a good welcome and is seeking "British identity step by step". Thomson's strengthened ties with Britain are part of a policy that has seen worldwide acquisitions of almost £1 billion since 1990 and joint ventures worth another £750 million. Another Thomson acquisition was that of Signaal, the naval combat systems branch of Philips in Holland. The French persuaded the Dutch government that it would build Signaal into a "centre of excellence" for domestic and export markets. The

result of this expansion is continued profit on turnover of £4.2 billion, down 2.4 per cent last year. Thomson has proposed its Rita battlefield communications system, used by the US Army, to Taiwan.

Aerospatiale, the biggest of the state-owned plane and missile makers, has secured six orders for the new Exocet. Two of the orders are to equip frigates for Malaysia, being built by Jarrow Shipbuilding and Corvettes for Oman at Vospers Thornycroft.

The French concern is working with British Aerospace and Deutsche Aerospace on the Trigat anti-tank missile. Another programme is the Aster, a European Patriot-style missile, with Italy's Aster and probably British Aerospace later. Aerospatiale is in the red, but has just sold 20 Super Puma helicopters to Turkey. Matra is developing the Apache air-to-ground missile and, wants to work with British partners, while building the European military observation satellite Helios with Marconi.

Dassault, the most famous name in the French defence business is in better shape as a result of the Taiwan order for Mirages. The Dassault Electronic arm now has part of the Leclerc tank contract, and its orders have doubled to £1.2 billion. Dassault, in which the State has a large holding, is being pushed by the government to collaborate more closely with Aerospatiale. The days of Dassault's splendid isolation are over, as Serge Dassault, chairman, said: "No one in the world can build military planes these days with his own money."

## TEMPUS

### Bermuda triangle

THE willingness of Isosceles' lenders to restructure and ring-fence £923 million of the group's borrowings shows how desperate they are to prevent the group going into administration or worse. Admittedly, the proposals have not been approved by all the group's banks but, if passed, they look likely to force them to provide against most of that sum.

Some of the debt, the deep-discount bonds and preference shares, may be repaid if Gateway is sold in the distant future, but until then, dividends from Gateway Holdings, the new operating subsidiary, are unlikely to be able to service even the £267 million rump of Isosceles' unstructured debt.

The ill-fated Isosceles buyout has been a banking black hole on the same scale as Imry or Heron. At the start of the recession, the banks were prepared to see such companies go into administration. They have since learnt it is better to preserve what little value remains

than allow them to be dismembered and sold off cheaply. Hopefully, HSBC spotted Midland's exposure of up to £150 million before last year's takeover, otherwise there will be rough words in Poultry.

The banks may feel they have secured Gateway's future, but that is far from clear. The supermarket industry demands heavy investment and Gateway now has £80 million of unused loan facilities to develop its business. This is a pittance compared with the £653 million Tesco invested in new stores in 1992.

David Simons says that the money will be used to refurbish the main Gateway chain, but there is no evidence that the company has the right formula to defend its market share among increasingly sophisticated consumers. Group sales are still declining and margins are thin, so the mezzanine and senior lenders should ask themselves what the 55 per cent they own in the restructured group is worth.

## Tesco

TESCO has learnt that the City is slow to forgive past disappointments, particularly if your competitors meet expectations. Having delivered unexciting earnings growth in the past two years, its ratings have plunged against rivals J Sainsbury and Argyl.

The latest results, albeit creditable, are unlikely to turn the tide. Although overall sales were comfortably up, sales volumes in existing stores fell 0.9 per cent. The opening of supermarkets with higher margins, will have to provide the engine for future growth.

However, the capital expenditure required to support such expansion has taken its toll on cash flow. The company had a net cash outflow, before financing, of £140 million and does not anti-

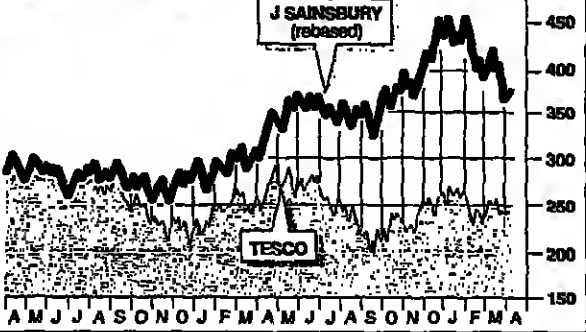
gate being cash neutral for another two or three years. So far, the new stores have performed well, but shareholders are still being asked to take a lot on trust.

Essentially, the group is fighting too many battles. It has tried to emulate Sainsbury by providing value-added products to ABCIs, but discounters are poaching

its traditional CDE customers. If Tesco wants to cater for both markets it will need longer shelves.

On a prospective p/e of 10 times, Tesco is cheap compared with the market, but there is still better value elsewhere in the sector. Earnings growth looks more promising at Argyl, now on a prospective p/e of 11.

## TESCO TIRING



## Daimler-Benz

REGARDLESS of the Bundesbank's recent cuts in the discount rate, the German economy seems to be sliding faster into recession. Daimler-Benz's disappointing figures appropriately coincided with a series of grim economic statistics. The year-on-year decline in manufacturing orders is more than 13 per cent, while the 50,000 rise in March's unemployment figure shows how rapidly German companies are cutting costs to cope with the slump in demand.

Daimler's earnings figures have surprised the market before, but the DM29.60 per share the group made last year was up to DM10 less than forecasts. This combined with the group's forecast of a 30 per cent earnings fall, was not what investors wanted to hear.

Given the scale of the economic downturn, Daimler's plans to shed 14,700 employees this year, less than 4 per cent of the group total, look modest. Unless the out-

look for the German motor industry improves soon, that is one estimate the group may revise upwards.

## TIP Europe

INSTITUTIONS that bought shares at 125p in TIP Europe's placing five years ago are likely to feel thoroughly peeved by yesterday's 42p cash offer from GE Capital, particularly as GE owns the company that sold TIP Europe to a management buyout in 1986.

Unfortunately, the offer is the best thing that could have happened to this company. Despite a £27 million rescue rights issue in 1991, TIP is still saddled with an unpayable £130 million debt, and can barely cover its interest payments. The company would probably have needed another massive infusion of equity to survive.

Nevertheless, GE does seem to be picking up a bargain. If TIP had had the benefit of GE's low cost of funding last year, its profits would have been more than £2 million

higher. GE has captured more than a quarter of the British trailer rental market, and a leading position in Europe. GE's resources will allow TIP to almost double its trailer fleet size in the next five years, putting pressure on its rival, Tiphook.

None of this is any comfort to TIP's burned shareholders. They have little alternative but accept, unless a higher offer emerges.

## Fisons

FISONS has struggled to keep up with rivals to the past. It is going to find it doubly difficult in the future, now that development of its next generation asthma drug has been disbanded.

Tipredane was the main product in Fisons' research and development pipeline and had been used as a carrot to reassure investors that the group had a promising future. Investors have cause to feel let down, since the company was trumpeting the virtues of the drug only last month.

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### IG Index bets on Pollard

HAVING struggled successfully to overcome the evils of gambling, it came as something of a shock for our stock market correspondent to discover that his old friend and personal bookmaker was coming out of retirement. "I can already visualise torn-up betting slips at the prospect of Ron Pollard making a welcome return to bookmaking," Michael Clark says. What makes it even worse is he has chosen IG Index, the Square Mile's own financial bookmaker, with which to make his comeback. Clark says: "It means I will have the opportunity to put some of my more hare-brained investment schemes into practice. Putting my money where my mouth is, so to speak. The prospect is frightening." Pollard joined IG on Monday on a PR IG consultancy basis. It is a shrewd move for IG. No one knows more than Pollard about gambling. During his 30 years as Cyril Stein's top betting man at Ladbrokes, Pollard introduced betting on everything from the general election outcome to the Miss World competition. I am sure he still has a few ideas up his sleeve.

### Pink'un talk

JOURNALISTS at the Financial Times, many of them well versed in the art of reporting boardroom battles, are now speculating just where David Palmer, forced to clear his desk as chief executive after "differences in management style", will turn up next. Ru-

mours are circulating in the FT's Southwark Bridge offices about Palmer's role. If any, in the loss of Richard McClean, deputy chief executive. Just days before the reshuffle, the FT announced that McClean would not be retiring early as expected. He would instead be joining the International Herald Tribune, one of the FT's closest competitors, in June, as chief executive. "Pushing your ablest executives into early retirement only to find he is off to be chief executive of your main competitor is not what I call style. But it's certainly different," says one senior correspondent, adding that staff were "jubilant" that David Bell, a more diplomatic man, has taken over from Palmer. "Palmer was not a team player and the FT is a team game."

### Building bricks

MOST builders must feel as though they have been banging their heads against a brick wall since profits and share

prices got hammered by the recession. Now some have reason to bloat about the heaves of bad news, not just the bad news itself. Presswatch, a monitoring agency that awards points on a scale of -60 to +60, according to how negative or positive the national press has been about a company, has some bad news for Costain. Last year, it attracted the most negative press coverage of any building contractor. Costain clocked up minus 1,153 points, but not far behind at minus 980 points was Taylor Woodrow. Siesley, the building material group recently taken over by Redland, fared poorly with minus 961 points. The labours of Presswatch may, however, be building up a lot of excitement for firms on the plus side. The newspapers' most favoured builder was Berkeley Group, which had a positive rating of 656 points, while Spring Ram, the most favoured building material group, secured 597 positive points. But sometimes newspapers get it wrong. Spring Ram shares have been temporarily suspended after worse than expected financial results.

INVESTORS in the stores sector might now be advised to take more seriously any circulars Goldman Sachs produces on Kingfisher. The American broker has hired Rod Whitehead, Kingfisher's 33-year-old investor relations and corporate finance manager, to become its stores analyst. He replaces Paul Deacon, who starts studying the food sector after 12 years spent pondering the retail business.

MELINDA WITTSTOCK



"More used ones are being stolen"

### Balancing mortgages with values

From F. H. Williams

Sir, Your "Over I'm caught in mortgage trap" (April 4). I feel that more prominence should be given to your comments about repossessed houses, and the fact that the Bank of England's estimated mortgage arrears exceeding value is even higher, you say — 1.7 million or more.

This is a very serious situation for thousands of people and the consequent blockages in the housing market seem to suggest that unusual measures

are necessary, even including emergency restriction of mortgage repayments to market value as a maximum. That would be rather hard on mortgagors, of course, but so are low price disposals, and in other types of investments lenders are having to face losses when selling under present conditions.

Yours faithfully, F. H. Williams, 33 Moorham Road, Wincoburn, Avon.

### Assuming one thought for all explains public alarm over inflation

From G. P. Walduck

Sir, So, according to Anatole Kalensky, inflation has been defeated, but he asks the question, why has public alarm about inflation grown? He has two answers: disinformation and "the American experience". These are fine attempts to complicate what is really a simple issue.

The real reason for public alarm about inflation is the same as for the consumer-led recession: people know what is good for them, even if they don't realise it. As inflation reduced, the logic behind credit-backed purchases of goods — buy today, because tomorrow it will be dearer — evaporated. Although real interest rates may not have changed much, the ability to pay off debt via next year's pay rise evaporated with it. Hence the dash to pay debt at the expense of non-essential purchasing. The lack of consumer confidence banded about by commentators was always nonsense; the recession will end not when confidence returns but when people perceive their debt burdens to be manageable.

Similarly with inflationary fears. Historically, except for the silent victims whose savings were eroding, inflation was a good thing. It had particular value in enhancing wealth through the gearing of house purchases, and it enabled many young people to enjoy a rapidly-rising standard of living. When a significant proportion of your non-discretionary expenditure is fixed or seems fixed (mortgages, life insurance, car purchase debts, etc.), a pay rise reflecting inflation can provide a very significant real increase in disposable income on top of gearing-based wealth increases. It is hardly surprising that there was a clamour for those pay rises that fuelled inflation and led to further rises in the perceived standard of living.

Three things have changed. First, those of us who had large mortgages in the seventies now have relatively small

### Of actions and words of policy on the lips of the Halifax chief

From M. J. Cummins

Sir, Within less than a week of the chief executive of the Halifax Building Society going on record to the effect that the society's policy would primarily be concerned with protecting the investors' earnings from further erosion, as opposed to reducing mortgage rates, the society announces a reduction in the interest payable to investors who have money in the Premium Xtra Account effective April 1.

If this is what the chief executive meant by looking

after the society's investors, I have another phrase for it. Perhaps it is not without some significance that the reduction in the rates of interest apply only to an account where investors are locked in for twelve months, on pain of

penalty if withdrawals are made; or is this another case of "read my lips"? Yours faithfully, M. J. CUMMINS, 21 Olney Road, Minchinhampton, Stroud, Gloucestershire.

### Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Aktiebolaget SKF will be held at SKF Kristinehed, Byfogdegatan 4, Göteborg, at 3.30 p.m. on Wednesday April 28, 1993.

### Annual General Meeting

#### Notice of Attendance

For the right to participate in the meeting, shareholders must be recorded in the shareholders' register kept by the Securities Register Centre (VPC AB) by Friday April 16, 1993 and must notify the Company before noon Friday April 23 of their intention to attend (Aktiebolaget SKF, S-415 50 Göteborg, Tel: +46-31-37 26 52), giving details of name, address, telephone and shareholding.

#### Dividends

The Board of Directors proposes that no dividend be paid based on the financial year 1992.

Proxy forms are available from: AB SKF, S-415 50 Göteborg, Sweden. Tel: +46-31-37 26 52 & 37 10 00.

Göteborg, April 1993.

The Board of Directors

SKF

Letters to The Times Business and Finance section can be sent by fax on 071-782 5112. Correspondents should include a daytime telephone number

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5	American	41.15	59.14	+0.29	0.59		
6	Standard	60.53	64.17	+0.02	0.03		
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94	Asia/Pac	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
95	Latin Am	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
96	Global Pfr	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
97	Income Cnt	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
98	European	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
99	Emerging Mkts	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
100	Asia/Pac	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
101	Latin Am	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
102	Global Pfr	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
103	Income Cnt	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
104	European	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
105	Emerging Mkts	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
106	Asia/Pac	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
107	Latin Am	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
108	Global Pfr	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
109	Income Cnt	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
110	European	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
111	Emerging Mkts	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
112	Asia/Pac	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
113	Latin Am	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
114	Global Pfr	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
115	Income Cnt	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
116	European	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
117	Emerging Mkts	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
118	Asia/Pac	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
119	Latin Am	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
120	Global Pfr	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
121	Income Cnt	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
122	European	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
123	Emerging Mkts	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
124	Asia/Pac	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
125	Latin Am	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
126	Global Pfr	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
127	Income Cnt	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
128	European	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
129	Emerging Mkts	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
130	Asia/Pac	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
131	Latin Am	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
132	Global Pfr	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
133	Income Cnt	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
134	European	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
135	Emerging Mkts	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
136	Asia/Pac	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
137	Latin Am	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
138	Global Pfr	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
139	Income Cnt	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
140	European	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
141	Emerging Mkts	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
142	Asia/Pac	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
143	Latin Am	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
144	Global Pfr	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
145	Income Cnt	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
146	European	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
147	Emerging Mkts	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
148	Asia/Pac	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
149	Latin Am	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
150	Global Pfr	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
151	Income Cnt	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
152	European	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
153	Emerging Mkts	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
154	Asia/Pac	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
155	Latin Am	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
156	Global Pfr	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
157	Income Cnt	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
158	European	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
159	Emerging Mkts	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
160	Asia/Pac	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
161	Latin Am	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
162	Global Pfr	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
163	Income Cnt	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
164	European	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
165	Emerging Mkts	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
166	Asia/Pac	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
167	Latin Am	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
168	Global Pfr	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
169	Income Cnt	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
170	European	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
171	Emerging Mkts	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
172	Asia/Pac	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
173	Latin Am	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
174	Global Pfr	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
175	Income Cnt	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
176	European	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
177	Emerging Mkts	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
178	Asia/Pac	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
179	Latin Am	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
180	Global Pfr	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
181	Income Cnt	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
182	European	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
183	Emerging Mkts	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
184	Asia/Pac	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
185	Latin Am	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
186	Global Pfr	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
187	Income Cnt	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
188	European	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
189	Emerging Mkts	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
190	Asia/Pac	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		
191	Latin Am	46.40	49.37	+0.16	0.34		

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12	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321	2322	2323	2324	2325	2326	2327	2328	2329	2330	2331	2332	2333	2334	2335	2336	2337	2338	2339	2340	2341	2342	2343	2344	2345	2346	2347	2348	2349	2350	2351	2352	2353	2354	2355	2356	2357	2358	2359	2360	2361	2362	2363	2364	2365	2366	2367	2368	2369	2370	2371	2372	2373	2374	2375	2376	2377	2378	2379	2380	2381	2382	2383	2384	2385	2386	2387	2388	2389	2390	2391	2392	2393	2394	2395	2396	2397	2398	2399	2400	2401	2402	2403	2404	2405	2406	2407	2408	2409
12	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321	2322	2323	2324	2325	2326	2327	2328	2329	2330	2331	2332	2333	2334	2335	2336	2337	2338	2339	2340	2341	2342	2343	2344	2345	2346	2347	2348	2349	2350	2351	2352	2353	2354	2355	2356	2357	2358	2359	2360	2361	2362	2363	2364	2365	2366	2367	2368	2369	2370	2371	2372	2373	2374	2375	2376	2377	2378	2379	2380	2381	2382	2383	2384	2385	2386	2387	2388	2389	2390	2391	2392	2393	2394	2395	2396	2397	2398	2399	2400	2401	2402	2403	2404	2405	2406	2407	2408	2409
12	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321	2322	2323	2324	2325	2326	2327	2328	2329	2330	2331	2332	2333	2334	2335	2336	2337	2338	2339	2340	2341	2342	2343	2344	2345	2346	2347	2348	2349	2350	2351	2352	2353	2354	2355	2356	2357	2358	2359	2360	2361	2362	2363	2364	2365	2366	2367	2368	2369	2370	2371	2372	2373	2374	2375	2376	2377	2378	2379	2380	2381	2382	2383	2384	2385	2386	2387	2388	2389	2390	2391	2392	2393	2394	2395	2396	2397	2398	2399	2400	2401	2402	2403	2404	2405	2406	2407	2408	2409
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2.00	DIR Inc Inc Inc	100.00	201.20	0.00	2.41				
0.00	North American	26.00	1.44	1.98	1.84				
0.00	North American	26.00	25.98	1.00	9.93				
1.57	Atlantic Film Inc	61.41	67.46	0.16	0.00				
1.57	US Corp	3.00	3.00	0.25	3.25				
1.39	Challenger	1.94	93.52	0.20	0.00				
<b>SCOTTISH PROVIDENT INVESTMENTS LTD</b>									
<b>6 51 Andrew St, Edinburgh, E82 2YA</b>									
<b>611 558 2341225</b>									
0.34	Realty City Inc	24.66	26.28	+ 0.05	2.94				
0.34	Mid Growth Inc	22.80	20.47	- 0.04	1.28				
0.34	Global Inc	22.99	22.73	- 0.00	3.94				
<b>WOOLWORTH UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD</b>									
<b>101 St Pauls Chk Square, Swinney BR8 2AG</b>									
<b>081 233 4900</b>									
0.34	Realty City Inc	24.66	26.28	+ 0.05	1.94				
0.34	Mid Growth Inc	22.80	20.47	- 0.04	1.28				
0.34	Global Inc	22.99	22.73	- 0.00	3.94				

**MONEY MARKETS**

Exchange index compared with 1985 was up at 79.7 (day's range 79.5-79.7).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES					
	Range		Close	1 month	3 month
Aide Rates for April 6					
Americanism	2,722.92-7,425	2,731.2-7,425		1-14c	
Breeds	49.90-50.3	50.32-50.35		8-10c	
Cable	9,240.9-9,381.0	9,350.0-9,381.0		2 1/2-5 1/2	11 1/4-14 1/4
Congen	0.9980-1.0016	0.9995-1.0014		25-30c	70-80c
Deutsche	2,408.2-4,413	2,410.2-4,413		1-1 1/2	
Lisbon	224.74-226.58	226.11-226.58		215-285c	487.7-510c
Madrid	173.91-174.99	174.55-174.99		104-121c	320-345c
Paris	24.24-24.26	24.24-24.26		104-121c	320-345c

191	New York	1.5115-1.5170	1.5125-1.5135	0.38-0.37c	1.07-1.00pc
0	London	10.3420-10.4100	10.3870-10.4100	1-3/4c	3-1/2c
886	Paris	6.2460-6.2680	6.2440-6.2680	1-1/2c	1-1/2c
84	Stockholm	11.5290-11.5930	11.5550-11.5790	2-1/2c	9-1/2c
939	Tokyo	172.67-173.63	172.67-173.67	1-1/2c	1-1/2c
977	Zurich	17.09-17.20	17.11-17.20	1-1/2c	6-1/2c
937	Source: Exel	2.2455-2.2559	2.2528-2.2559	1-1/2c	6-1/2c
				Premium - pc	Discount - ds

Australia dollar	2.1472-2.1502	Austria	13.148-13.08
Bahrain dinar	0.5645-0.5765	Belgium (Cont.)	33.161-33.15
Bahri ozonim	59981.4-40034.7	Canada	1.2605-1.2610
Beygos yuan	0.72-0.74	Denmark	6.4865-6.4874
Finland markka	8.762-8.878	France	5.4905-5.4935
Grece drachmas	32.775-334.75	Germany	6.0091-6.1014
Hong Kong dollar	11.9935-11.9985	Hong Kong	7.730-7.731
India rupee	46.95-47.91	Ireland	1.121-1.123
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4515-0.4615	Italy	1597.5-1598.0
Malaysia ringgit	3.9023-3.9063	Japan	114.28-114.33
Mexico			

South Africa (Ry)	9.812-9.738	Norway	6.960-6.8632
Singapore dollar	2.292-2.462	Portugal	149.05-149.15
S Africa rand (fin)	0.8123-0.8225	Spain	1.626-1.6270
S Africa rand (com)	4.8124-4.8187	Spain	115.20-115.30
U.S. dollar	5.4955-5.6195	Sweden	7.0351-7.0451
<b>Barclays Bank GTS - Lyons Bank</b>		Switzerland	1.487-1.489

MONEY RATES (%)	
Base Rates Clearing Banks	Financie Hse's
Discount	Discount

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4
Overnight Money Rates:	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4
International:	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4
Sterling open 6 1/2, close 6 1/2					
Local Authority Depos:	5	n/a	5	5	5
Savings CDs:	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4
Dollar CDs:	3.08-3.05	n/a	112-110	121-118	146-143
Betting Strategy CDs:	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4	5 1/2-5 3/4

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)					
Currency	1 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Cdft
Dollars	3-4%	3 1/2-4%	3 1/2-	3 1/2-	3 1/2-
Deutsche marks	5-6%	5-6%	5-7%	7-7 1/2%	7-8%
French francs	10-11%	10-11%	9 1/2-10%	9 1/2%	11-10%
Swiss francs	5-5 1/2%				

**PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)**  
 Bullion: Open \$337.50-338.20 Close \$337.50-338.20 High \$338.50-339.15  
 Low \$337.15-337.45  
 Underground: \$337.00-339.00 (\$222.00-224.00)  
 Sovereigns: Old \$80.00-83.00 (\$50.75-52.75) New \$80.00-83.00 (\$50.75-52.75)  
 Platinum: \$362.25 (\$239.75) Silver: \$3.68 (2.555) Palladium: \$114.50 (\$75.89)

100-443887-100

Platinum: \$362.25 (2,379.75) Silver: \$3.68 (2.355) Palladium: \$114.50 (775.69)

Platinum: \$362.25 (2,379.75) Silver: \$3.68 (2.355) Palladium: \$114.50 (775.69)



**Portfolio Plus**  
From your Portfolio Plus card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall daily gain or loss. It matches the daily gain or loss on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Come rules appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	157 Helios	Mining	1.00
2	158 TV	Media	1.00
3	159 Allied Irish	Banking	1.00
4	160 Black & White	Food	1.00
5	161 Land Sec	Property	1.00
6	162 Mervale Mre	Property	1.00
7	163 Smith W H A	Drugs	1.00
8	164 Denslow (A)	Drugs	1.00
9	165 Harrow	Drugs	1.00
10	166 Power Gen	Electricity	1.00
11	167 Bletcham Gp	Electricity	1.00
12	168 Wills (James)	Insurance	1.00
13	169 East Midlands	Insurance	1.00
14	170 Central TV	Media	1.00
15	171 Mervale Mre	Property	1.00
16	172 Land Sec	Property	1.00
17	173 Coast Vella	Property	1.00
18	174 Smith W H A	Drugs	1.00
19	175 GEC	Electricity	1.00
20	176 Angham Water	Water	1.00
21	177 Dunhill	Drugs	1.00
22	178 Redland	Drugs	1.00
23	179 Trian	Food	1.00
24	180 Northumbria	Drugs	1.00
25	181 Autogam	Drugs	1.00
26	182 Legal & Gen	Insurance	1.00
27	183 GRE	Insurance	1.00
28	184 Incheague	Insurance	1.00
29	185 Midlands Etc	Insurance	1.00
30	186 Br Penfold	Insurance	1.00
31	187 North West	Insurance	1.00
32	188 FPS Cos	Insurance	1.00
33	189 Lorraine	Insurance	1.00
34	190 CRA	Insurance	1.00
35	191 Whitbread A	Drugs	1.00
36	192 Wills (James)	Insurance	1.00
37	193 News Corp	Media	1.00
38	194 Mansfield	Drugs	1.00
39	195 South West	Insurance	1.00
40	196 Thames Water	Water	1.00

Please take into account any minus signs

**£1,000 MATCH THE SHARES**  
If you have ticked off your eighth share in our Match The Shares game today, claim your prize by telephoning 0254 53272 between 10.00am and 5.30pm (see the Sunday Times for full details)

Two winners equally shared yesterday's Portfolio Plus prize of £2,000. They are Mr A Parry of Cheltenham and Ms E Lenton of Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

1993	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
400	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
401	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
402	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
403	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
404	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
405	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
406	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
407	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
408	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
409	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
410	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
411	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
412	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
413	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
414	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
415	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
416	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
417	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
418	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
419	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
420	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4

1993	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
421	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
422	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
423	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
424	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
425	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
426	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
427	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
428	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
429	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
430	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
431	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
432	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
433	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
434	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
435	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
436	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
437	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
438	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
439	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
440	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4

1993	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
441	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
442	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
443	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
444	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
445	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
446	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
447	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
448	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
449	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
450	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
451	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
452	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
453	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
454	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
455	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
456	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
457	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
458	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
459	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
460	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4

1993	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
461	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
462	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
463	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
464	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
465	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
466	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
467	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
468	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
469	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
470	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
471	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
472	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
473	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
474	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
475	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
476	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
477	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
478	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
479	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
480	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4

1993	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
481	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
482	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
483	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
484	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
485	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
486	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
487	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
488	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
489	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
490	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
491	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
492	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
493	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
494	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
495	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
496	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
497	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
498	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
499	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
500	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4

1993	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
501	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
502	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
503	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
504	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
505	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
506	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
507	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
508	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
509	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
510	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
511	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
512	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
513	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
514	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
515	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
516	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
517	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
518	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
519	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
520	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4

1993	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
521	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
522	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
523	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
524	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
525	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
526	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
527	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
528	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
529	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
530	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
531	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
532	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
533	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
534	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
535	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
536	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
537	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
538	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
539	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
540	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4

1993	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
541	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
542	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
543	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
544	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
545	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
546	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
547	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
548	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
549	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
550	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
551	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
552	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
553	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
554	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
555	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
556	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
557	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
558	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
559	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4
560	345	340	Abbey Nat	70	-0.1	13.4

1993	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
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## Rolling radio news or a 24-hour yawn?

The BBC's proposed round-the-clock News Network has attracted protests from listeners and scepticism from experts. Yet plans to open the station next year continue

You give us 22 minutes and we will give you the world! This is how one New York-based rolling news radio network invites listeners to tune in. Round and round it goes, repeating its bulletins. Every 22 minutes.

Try as it might, the BBC has been unable to dampen fears that its planned 24-hour radio News Network will serve up the same mind-numbing fare on this side of the Atlantic. Amid all the panic created by the corporation's initial decision to put the new station on long wave, and confining Radio 4 to the FM band, the proposed service's form and content has been overlooked.

What, then, is the BBC proposing with its radical new station? Who wants it, anyway? According to the corporation's research, the typical News Network listener is more likely to be a C2 male, and aged 16 to 34, who already listens to independent local radio. Another survey shows that 21 per cent of the public favour the new channel. The BBC hopes that such findings indicate the existence of a new audience, in addition to the traditional Radio 4 listeners, for the 24-hour service.

Jenny Abramsky, BBC radio's news and current affairs editor, says that the new station, due to go on air in 12 months' time, will extend, not reduce choice. "Popular programmes such as *Today*, *The World At One*, *PM*, *The 6 O'Clock News* and *The World Tonight* will still be there, on both Radio 4 and the new channel," she explains. "But between those landmarks there will be a new choice of routes: the Radio 4 mix on one frequency and new-based programmes on the other."

Supporters of News Network such as John Humphrys, a presenter on Radio 4's *Today* programme, hope that it will enable the BBC to compete directly with daily newspapers, with the gaps between half-



Support: John Humphrys



Choice: Jenny Abramsky



Concern: Charles Wheeler

hourly news bulletins filled by features, analyses, comment and live discussions.

Certainly, the range of newspaper coverage is something to aim for. Whereas Radio 4 might cover 38 stories in its news programmes throughout one day, national daily papers cover more than 70.

For Paul Reynolds, the BBC's diplomatic correspondent, News Network's greatest

strength is its potential for live coverage.

"As the BBC's continuous FM coverage of the Gulf war showed, presenting news in the raw like this, unprocessed and unpacked by production teams, can really bring people closer to the events they hear about," he says.

Mr Reynolds cites as examples the huge potential impact of an instant and unedited broadcast of Michael Heseltine's dramatic statement to the Commons on pit closures and the intensely moving first press conference after the Warrington bombing.

Some BBC journalists, such as Charles Wheeler, a former US correspondent who now freelances for Newsnight on BBC2, have voiced concern that expanding the BBC's news output may place too many demands on its correspondents. But the corporation points to the extra £9 million of resources it has earmarked for the station's first year.

Scepticism outside the BBC also remains, not least among listeners in parts of Britain and the Continent where Radio 4 can be received only on long wave. The BBC has promised, belatedly, that the new service will not start until reception is satisfactory in all areas.

The experience of other countries is not reassuring. France's public service 24-hour rolling news service *France-Info*, for example, is widely considered a huge success. But after nearly six years of churning out a monotonous round of updated bulletins every seven minutes, interspersed with repeats of "magazine" items, its daily audience still averages three and a half million.

The BBC will have to attract many more listeners if it is to convince the licence fee payers that News Network has been worth all the effort.

ALEXANDRA FREAN



Robert Kilroy-Silk's discussion programme is one of the best of the genre but speakers have to express intimate and complex views at top speed

## Morality in 15 minutes

Broadcasters have a responsibility to stop TV discussion shows degenerating into slanging matches, or having so many speakers that there is no depth, says Roger Graef

ments of time to have an intimate conversation with a psychiatrist on a station platform at rush hour with the shrill about to board the train.

"Controversy" is judged by the decided level of the audience and the visibility of veins on the cheeks of the invited guests. At their best, Winfrey, Scott and Kilroy can be brilliant and rise above the format's limitations. At its worst, it provides cheap television in every sense of the word.

The formula has been copied by local ITV stations. Unlike the single subject of a network show, they squeeze two or three into their slot. On *Central Weekend*, a particularly raucous version, I once tried to discuss police misconduct with four victims, MPs, police and an angry audience. Our quarter of an hour was sandwiched between chats about witchcraft and a new union for prostitutes.

Some subjects are in marked contrast with the triviality of tone. Twinned with "why pop music now relies on old songs", Granada looked at the state of the nation's morals, no less. Many of the audience were from Liverpool and baying for the blood of the youngsters who killed Jamie Bulger.

The "discussion" was dominated by a shouting match between a woman who wanted to kill or castrate all criminals and a young offender trying to make a life for himself. Terry Dicks, the only MP willing to appear, gleefully agreed with the Liverpool contingent. Having heard an academic and me trying to speak about positive remedies, Mr Dicks argued for "machine-gunning young criminals", and "cutting off the hands of thieves", a sentiment which brought applause. John Over, Chief Constable of Gwent, froze with distaste and vowed never to participate in such an event again.

It could be argued that this "infotainment" is just an amusing and harmless way to let ordinary people challenge experts about current concerns in popular culture as well as politics. But on a subject as vulnerable to hysteria, prejudice and misconception as crime and punishment, I believe television has a responsibility to its viewers and to those who participate in its programmes not to make matters worse.

Meridian's *Loud and Clear* a fortnight ago looked at youth crime. The researchers had done well in assembling young offenders and their

agreed that prison had been a waste of time, and a training ground for more serious crimes. In the national mood of retribution and despair, it was a useful contribution. They were interrupted by a couple of motorbikes arriving to show how cheap and effective motor projects are for diverting joyriders. On hand, bursting to speak, were a dozen other practitioners of positive alternatives to expensive and wasteful custody.

But it seems their conclusion wasn't in the script. Turning his back on them, the presenter said to the "hard liners": "This seems to me like a soft

prejudices by rubbing even the evidence the programme had offered."

At a time when moral values seem to be breaking down, John Birt, Director-General of the BBC, spoke last week about helping the nation deal with difficult questions. He also promised the widest reach of voices to counter the current metropolitan bias of London-based production.

Audience participation programmes can achieve this. They can be both good television and enlightening: on *Question Time* the audience is often more eloquent than the panel. The only time Mrs Thatcher was caught off guard was by a housewife in the *Granada 500* who asked about the sinking of the *Belgrano*, with a force no professional ever managed.

But overcrowded and overheated exchanges while rushing through a forest of rich issues are parodies of discussion that value sound and fury over insight. On subjects like crime, to which there are no easy answers, the last thing we need are more shouted headlines and political shorthand based on wishful thinking and a lack of knowledge of the evidence. "Family values", "teach them a lesson", "bring back the fifties" (however desirable they may be) are phrases that, if left unexamined, fog our understanding of how to change the behaviour of troublesome young people.

It would be revealing television to bring a group of young offenders together with adults spouting such clichés and encourage them to explore each other's experience. But the *sine qua non* of such an encounter is the room for each of them to listen and learn. Without that time and space, both participants and viewers are left with the frustration of a dialogue of the deaf. And a sense of both the hopelessness of the problem, and the irrelevance of television, when neither conclusion is correct.

● Roger Graef is the author of *Living Dangerously: young offenders in their own words* (HarperCollins, £14.99).



Model show? Oprah Winfrey, right, with Cindy Crawford. Her sometimes brilliant shows can descend into cheapness

parents, people who worked closely with them, victims, magistrates, police and MPs. The presenter, Dr Hilary Jones, insisted there was "no script" and he wanted to hear what everyone had to say. But there were 60 of us. If half the group spoke for only one minute, and the rest spoke for two, it would take 90 minutes — two commercial television hours — the stuff of a major debate, or a late night programme like Channel 4's *After Dark*, which had only eight guests. With an introductory film, we had 22 minutes. And Dr Jones had a script, which made him unable to listen. The young offenders

option. We've heard from these young people that nothing works but long sentences [sic]. We don't seem to be able to get enough of those." The MP mocked the motorbike project, saying it was "fantastically expensive" (the organiser had said how cheap it was to run). He referred to the need to change the law to imprison "murderers". (The law already allows that. But all these young offenders were shoplifters or thieves.) But no correction came from Dr Jones, nor did he give time for "the softies" to put the record straight. It was "infotainment" at its worst: careless, destructive, and reinforcing viewers'

Public scepticism about market research casts doubts on its accuracy

## Put not your faith in polls

Do people tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth to market research interviewers? You must be kidding. My scepticism about market research was born when I was a toddler. An interviewer knocked on our door to ask my mother which paper she read. "The Times," she replied. "Mum," I said, "if I imbibed a bottle of hooch a day I'd admit to a few doubles — unless my spouse is in earshot, in which case I hardly touch the stuff."

Market researchers have long been aware of respondents' propensity to massage facts. But at last week's annual Market Research Society Conference, attended by more than 600 UK research parajudges, Stephen Chinn, of Saatchi, revealed that many respondents are now going much further. They are no longer being parsimonious with the truth: they are deliberately manipulating market researchers.

Mr Chinn carried out a pioneering study, ironically using standard market research techniques, which showed that many interviewees now understand researchers' methods all too well. As a young Nottingham lager drinker put it, "You don't seem to realise how much we know about what you do, and what role you need us to play. You think what you're doing is clever... but has it occurred to you that we probably know more about you than you know about us?"

Some respondents in Mr Chinn's study went further. They scorned the apparent ignorance of the companies that sponsor the market surveys. Surely, they said, these big businesses should know the

answers already, or anyway be able to work them out for themselves? Some cheerfully admitted to playing games with researchers. "I don't want to have advertisements that make me buy things," said one respondent. "I just want ads to be dead funny!"

And the notion that the manufacturers carry out surveys in order to be able to understand customer needs was thought laughable. Respondents were well aware they were being interviewed to help the manufacturers to keep their production lines flowing and their profits growing.

Market research is a £350-million-a-year industry. Opinion polls and surveys are published daily. Everyone by now knows roughly how they work, and as the last general election irrefutably established, by no means everyone responds to them truthfully.

The 53 pre-election polls were, when averaged, 8.5 per cent adrift from the result. Professor Ivor Crewe, of Essex University, has suggested that many voters may be manipulating opinion polls in the same way as they do by-elections — to register disapproval and let politicians know how they feel.

Most people prefer to be seen as responsible. Many claim they are willing to pay higher taxes *pro bono publico*, then change their minds when they vote; many claim to be worried about environmental pollution, but buy the same old detergents; many say safety is more important to them than speed, then buy the zippiest car they can afford. Not everyone lies; but if a fair proportion do that will be more than enough to skew the results completely. Mr Chinn's most important finding is that respondents' tendency to fib is growing. If he is right, the polls' failure to predict accurately the results of elections is a harbinger. And given the growing propensity of British businesses to use market research in the same way as drinks use lamposts — not for illumination but for support — the consequences for advertising and marketing could be great.

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**THEATRE page 30**  
Dark deeds observed  
in the Deep South, as  
From the Mississippi  
Delta comes to London

# ARTS

**ART page 31**  
Jacob Jordaens:  
Antwerp, Cultural  
Capital of Europe,  
salutes its Old Master



**MUSIC: Richard Morrison on musical plagiarism, exemplified by *The Beggar's Opera*, opening tonight**

## Fortunes to be made in used notes

For once, let us banish all mention of brilliant, original geniuses. You are probably tired of reading about them. We are tired of writing about them. The clever-clogs who can fashion a devastating aphorism in the time it takes to say "Tom Stoppard". The Schuberts, the Mozarts and the Gershwins who scribble immortal melodies on beer-mats while waiting for the barman to replenish the salted peanuts. The Modiglianis who knock off £10,000 worth of doodles over the morning cuppa.

Don't get me wrong. We should not be beastly to geniuses all the time. We need them more than they need us. But we ought to acknowledge that all the arts, and music in particular, have room for a different sort of creativity: for opportunists, pale imitators and incorrigible fakers and lovable rogues. For those who could not dream up an original statement in a month of Sundays, but who nevertheless have fashioned some of the ripest entertainments the world has known. No, not journalists. I refer to plagiarists.

Now is a good time to celebrate these musical thieving magpies, because tonight the Royal Shakespeare Company brings to the Barbican the *magnum opus* of plagiarism: John Gay's *Beggar's Opera*. Originally it had 69 tunes, marvellous, memorable, toe-tapping tunes. Tunes that have resonated down the centuries since the work's 1728 premiere. Yet not one of them is original. It was a remarkable achievement by Gay and his musical henchman, Pepusch: they devised an opera while managing to suppress any impulse to compose a single new melody.

How does one explain it? Gay's first intention was to lampoon Italian opera; to which his chief objection was that its exponents were over-paid, overweight and over here. Possibly they were over-sexed as well — though this seems improbable, since the top stars were castrati. An incidental pleasure for the cynical Gay was to mock the corrupt government of the day, by caricaturing Walpole and his ministers as a bunch of highwaymen and fences.

So it mattered little to him where he pinched his tunes from, and he went about his kleptomaniac with a cheerful eclecticism. English ballads account for 28 of the tunes, Irish folksong for 15. A melody which the dainty French put to twine Christmas-carol words ("Quelle est cette odeur agréable?") was turned by Gay into a raucous highwayman's drinking song, "Fill every cup".

Such folksongs are, by definition, common property. So Gay was doing nothing ethically wrong here. Far more debatable, though perfectly legal in those pre-copy-

right times, was his grand larceny of other composers' operas. From the late, great Henry Purcell he pinched the hit-song of *Dioclesian*, "What shall I do to show how much I love her?", and twisted it into something smutty and cynical about the scarcity of virgins around the Covent Garden area. Imagine the scandal if, say, Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber pinched another composer's tune for his next musical. Not that Sir Andrew would ever do that.

Gay even pinched a tune from the man who was then the idol of London's opera-goers: George Frideric Handel. He presented the stirring march from Handel's *Rinaldo* as yet another raucous highwayman's chorus, "Let us take the road". And herein lies a delicious irony. Handel could not complain, because he himself was probably the biggest thief of other composers' tunes that musical history has ever known.

For the robbed composers it must have been doubly galling, because Handel invariably improved their work vastly in the rewriting. He would have made an excellent newspaper sub-editor — though of course sub-editors do not substitute their own names for the original authors', no matter how heavy their revisionism.

"Handel took other men's pebbles and polished them into diamonds," said the composer William Boyce. A bit generous, one may think. Other Handel apologists have compared him to Shakespeare, who never made up his own stories. But pinching another composer's tune wholesale is surely a far more serious thing: it would be as if Shakespeare had lifted Hamlet's soliloquy directly from a contemporary play.

The strange thing about the case of George Frideric is how little his contemporaries commented on it. And the reason is obvious: stealing

**'Gay and Pepusch suppressed any impulse to compose a single new melody'**

from other composers was accepted as normal and okay — provided the thief improved the tune in the process.

This notion shocks us today. We hold idealistic views about authorship being next to godliness. Quite often, these days, the composer of a hugely successful song will be dragged through the courts, charged with plagiarism (funny how the composers of hugely

unsuccessful songs are never sued). And lawyers will enjoy themselves immensely, and feed their hungry families for months, by talking augmented-fourths and dominant-sevenths to a judge who is likely to be tone-deaf.

We are probably right to have embraced into our ethical system the gargantuan paraphernalia of copyright law. But just consider how much poorer musical history would be if none of the great composers had been allowed to pinch any pre-existent material. You can wave goodbye to most of the medieval and Renaissance period for a start: all those wonderful parody-masses, "In Nomines" and "cantus firmus" compositions with which composers from Taverner to Palestrina demonstrated their sublime craft.

Bach would suffer as well: after all, his Passions lift their chorale tunes straight out of the Lutheran hymnbook. And the Lutherans

stole many of their best tunes from secular sources: love-songs, minstrel songs, ballads. Consider the weird genealogy of the "hymn-tune" which, throughout the English-speaking world, is sung to the words "All glory, laud and honour". The editors of British hymnbooks lifted it note for note from Bach's *St John Passion*. Bach in turn had pinched it (improving its harmony immeasurably, of course) from an early 17th century choir-master called Melchior Teschner, who had published it as a hymn in Leipzig in 1615.

But Teschner was no great original. He had also pinched the tune from a German dance collection published nearly 20 years earlier. The compiler of that dance collection had got the tune from the great English composer William Byrd, who had known it as *Selling's Round* and written a masterful set of keyboard variations on it, which he included in the

widely influential *My Lady Newells Booke* in 1590.

As for Byrd, he knew the tune as a folk melody, brought over to England by Irish minstrels in the 1540s. Who Sellinger was, and what part he played in this convoluted history, is unclear.

It is not only music of the pre-Classical era that would suffer from a ban on plagiarism. Out, too, would go all those wonderful homage pieces of the romantic period: Rachmaninov's *Paganini Variations*, for instance. You would have to think hard about censoring Brahms's First Symphony: "any fool can hear that," he snapped, when a kindly friend pointed out that the big tune in its finale bears a distinct resemblance to the "Ode to Joy" in Beethoven's Ninth. Mahler's symphonies would be decimated, what with "Frère Jacques" and all those Austrian folksongs creeping in. Very naughty, Gustav.

I don't think Berg's Violin Concerto would pass muster, either, with its beautiful but oh-so-derivative recollection of a Bach cantata. As for Berio's *Sinfonia*, which "deconstructs" the entire scherzo of Mahler's Second Symphony — well, the man is shameless.

Operetta would not escape: Sullivan shoplifted from Donizetti wickedly in *Trial by Jury*, and some keen ears detect a tune from Wagner's *Ring* creeping into *The Mikado*. I hold a theory that Cole Porter's tremulous ballad, "So in Love", is harmonically too close to "Ich grolle nicht", the climactic number of Schumann's song-cycle *Dichterliebe*, for the similarity to be accidental. Ban it!

After a few days of merry manuscript-burning, however, the truth would dawn on the plagiarist-busters. Even if you could stop composers from consciously stealing, their subconscious minds would continue the process. A British musicologist, the late Deryck Cooke, sought to demonstrate this in a fascinating book, *The Language of Music*. His thesis was that composers expressing the same emotion — unrequited love, for instance — reach time and again for near-identical melodic shapes.

I vowed to mention no geniuses, only plagiarists. But Bach, Brahms, and Mahler have cropped up anyway. How do they differ from John Gay and his 69 stolen tunes? Perhaps, like the gentleman burglar of some Edwardian novel, they are forgiven because they go about their crimes in such style. John Potter, a contemporary of Handel, wrote that a composer should be like "a curious bee: suck sweets from every flower". I doubt whether there is a composer in history who has not done that.

● The *Beggar's Opera* opens tonight at the Barbican Theatre (071-638 8891) and is in repertory until June 10



### ROCK CONCERTS

## Every word is finely judged

**Suzanne Vega**  
Hammersmith  
Apollo

Few musical stereotypes fit as badly as the one long since assigned to Suzanne Vega. The image of fey, flaxen-haired folkie was far from apt in the first place but has become increasingly wide of the mark as, over the course of four studio albums, the 33-year-old New Yorker has subverted the expectations inherent to her genre with ever more ambitious and challenging material.

Most recently, for example, the album *99.9 Fahrenheit Degrees* placed both industrial noises and dance beats alongside the expected acoustic folk to throw shadows and light on some of the most intelligent songwriting accomplished anywhere within the pop sphere during the past year. And that it has proved, in

America particularly, something of a commercial disappointment seems only to have strengthened Vega's resolve to plough an individual furrow.

Vega's best work demonstrates an astonishing attention to detail: each word is weighted perfectly within any one line, each line is balanced to bring rhythm and momentum to the verse, and each verse advances the imaginatively realised narrative of the whole lyric. And that she delivers these widely divergent songs — "Small Blue Thing", "Rock in this Pocket" and "As



Suzanne Vega: she displays a new, steely confidence in her unhistrionic performances

Girls Go" among them — with a seemingly artless detachment that belies the intent behind them, only intensifies their impact. A less histrionic performer it would be hard to imagine. But a more economically yet emotionally effective one is equally rare.

An eight-year chart career is such that she has now amassed obvious crowd-pleasers: fans ad-libbed the group DNA's backing to her previously a cappella "Tom's Diner" in tribute to its surprise re-emergence as a 1991 dance hit and went into frenzy over two beautifully delivered favourites, the hit single "Luka" and a closing "The Queen and the Soldier". Elsewhere Mitchell Froom, who produced her latest album and who here led a distinguished four-piece supporting band, ensured that a suitably robust and adventurous soundtrack accompanied her well-chosen mix of both old and new material. Despite her steely confidence, her diffidence in dealing with the clamour for another and then yet another encore suggests she still does not realise quite how good she is on present form.

ALAN JACKSON

**Lemonheads**  
National, Kilburn

It is not hard to see why Lemonheads have enjoyed such a decisive upswing in their fortunes since the release last summer of their fifth album *It's A Shame About Ray*. By the start of the 1990s, the trio, originally from Boston, had forged a cult reputation as a likable but unruly operation, much given to the kind of show where coherent pacing and any attempt at nuance were sacrificed to the explosive, unfocused thrust of the presentation as a whole, led by singer, guitarist and songwriter Evan Dando.

However, with the *Ray* album, Dando discovered a more restrained way of writing and arranging his songs, involving proper tunes and an acoustic guitar. A souped-up

version of Paul Simon's "Mrs Robinson" provided the necessary hit single. And Dando managed to push the hair out of his eyes long enough to reveal the kind of Californian hippie life-guard looks which recently prompted one magazine to describe him as "the most eligible man in rock".

There was some teen hysteria at the National, with screaming noises every time it looked as if the band was about to take the stage. The three musicians eventually slouched on and immediately launched into a brisk sequence of numbers with an alert, punchy sound quite unlike the grunge muddle of old. "Confetti", "Rudderless" and "Alison's Starting To Happen", all from the *Ray* album, married loud, guitar-trio dynamics with the swift, breezy belt of power pop, a combination that contrived to be heavy without being angry.

With bassist Nic Dalton and drummer David Ryan producing a sound as hard and wiry as they looked, the slower, more wistful sequence which followed — incorporating "It's A Shame About Ray", "My Drug Buddy" and the epic "Ride With Me" — was the high point of the show. Dando treated the numbers with a suitably delicate touch, neatly paving the way for the return to the heavier firepower of "Kitchen" which followed.

Having dispatched 18 songs in well under an hour, they abruptly downed instruments and left the stage. Dando played a succession of "encores", but there was another swift departure and no "Mrs Robinson". Despite his new-found grace and accessibility, Dando is still nobody's cuddly toy.

DAVID SINCLAIR

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# Distant echoes from the South

when the civil rights marchers hit Mississippi. Her development can be sketchy and abrupt, especially in the play's later stages; but that does not altogether matter, since it is her mother, "Aunt Baby," who is in many ways the more interesting character. She is a midwife of great skill and, it seems, a person of astonishing generosity; and she comes to the most undeserving of ends, victim of arsonists who presumably find her dogged,

## Hopeful travellers, journeyman class

serts a few stories such as that of the man who bit off a piece of the True Cross and stole it when he was supposed to be kissing it on Good Friday. Another 18th-century English writer would not have been surprised. Gibbon, describing precisely the same period in his *Decline and Fall*: says that the presence of the holy relics in Jerusalem might have been expected to have a salutary effect on the morals of its citizens, "but every species of vice—adultery, theft, idolatry, poisoning, murder—was familiar to the inhabitants of the Holy City".

These vices are also very familiar to followers of *Saturday Night Theatre*, which celebrated 50 years of life on Radio 4 last Saturday. It began in the

## Betraying our expectations of good faith

appropriate the Holocaust for his own polemical purposes; but that does not make the spectacle any less unedifying. I would mind less if he were not, in fact, often rather a good writer.

As for the panel: I wonder whether the more learned participants were fully aware that their discussion, quite apart from its gimmicky setting, would be placed in the context of a Jacobson extravaganza? Less serious media preachers, such as Lionel Blue or David Jenkins, may not have cared about the fact that they were helping to trivialize such a serious subject.

I was surprised that proper scholars such as Macouby himself, Rabbi Abraham Friedlander, Bishop Hugh Montefiore and Karen Armstrong gave their blessing to this trivialized, wasteful, Judas is indeed a disturbing presence in the common heritage of

Christians and Jews: but his true meaning will not reveal itself to those whose souls are in danger.

Some *Judea* has all too typical of present fashions in religious broadcasting. It is almost inconceivable that such a programme could be shown about Islam or Judaism — and rightly so. Though critical in tone, Jacobson's recent book *Roots Schmoots*, accompanied by a television series, treated the beliefs of other Jews with a fair degree of respect.

Those who wish to ignore the sensibilities of Muslims are deterred by the plight of Salman Rushdie, whose *Satanic Verses* treated Muhammad far more politely than Jacobson does Jesus. Only Christians are expected not to mind when things that they hold dear are ridiculed on television during the most solemn week in their calendar.

bricks beside him, ready to run them at anybody who tries too near the water-meter, on the edge of her garden. If comedy is called for, the cast is well able to oblige.

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**□ CYRANO DE BERGERAC.** Robert Lindsay looks right as the nasally

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هكذا من الاجل











Rachel Kelly explains what the much-heralded East Thames Corridor will really be like

# How far is it to the new city?

The government's plans for a new city to the east of London announced last month were full of sound and fury, but signified very little to most people. What will the new city look like and where exactly will it be built?

The government has been economical with its answers, chiefly because it doesn't know. There are innumerable "ifs", "buts" and "maybes" to its plans. Indeed, the report by the consultants commissioned by the government, Lewelyn Davies, suggests five different possibilities for development in the area.

Instead of a development similar to Docklands, where planners can give full rein to a grand design, plans for the East Thames Corridor are far more ad hoc.

Michael Howard, the environment secretary and guiding force behind the development, has made clear that there is no single design blueprint to be imposed by Whitehall. The keyword is flexibility.

The first stage, until the end of the year, and the only stage so far to receive government commitment, is consultative. Mr Howard has set up a task force, led by Michael Ash, a senior civil servant. Mr Ash and other civil servants from the transport department and the trade department, will consult local councils and private firms to establish a strategy for the development.

It is a mistake to think in terms of a linear city — unending blocks of concrete stretched along sweeps of railway and road. The confusion is understandable, Michael Heseltine, when he originally put forward his ideas for the East Thames Corridor, did think in such terms. The recession has brought a more sober vision.

Mr Howard's development is best imagined as a string of mini new towns. These pockets of hope and development will thread their way through the broad sweep of land 30 miles either side of the Thames, linked by improved transport facilities and surrounded by greenery.

The area is dotted with some of the country's finest conservation areas for migrating birds. Mr Howard has said

that one of his objectives is to raise the area's environmental quality, to safeguard its internationally important wildlife habitat. Large parts of the Swale, the Medway Estuary and the mudflats of the Hoo Peninsula and the Elmley Marshes on the south bank of the Thames estuary, are designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

Again, in an effort to avoid the mistakes of Docklands, Mr Howard is determined that developments should coincide with new infrastructure. Transport, according to Professor Peter Hall, Mr Howard's planning adviser, is the "maker or breaker" of cities. In addition to the Channel tunnel rail link, Mr Howard promises improvements to the railway services to Tilbury and Southend, upgraded road links, and extensions to the Docklands light railway.

Much remains in the balance. Housebuilders are sceptical of the government's commitment, either to invest in infrastructure beyond plans already announced or to clean contaminated land. Almost 20 per cent of the land is polluted by industrial or other activities. Lewelyn Davies estimates that environmental improvements will cost £120-£150 million if development is intensive. A further £40-£120 million would be needed for undergrounding power lines which criss-cross the area like a car's cradle. The task force has yet to report.

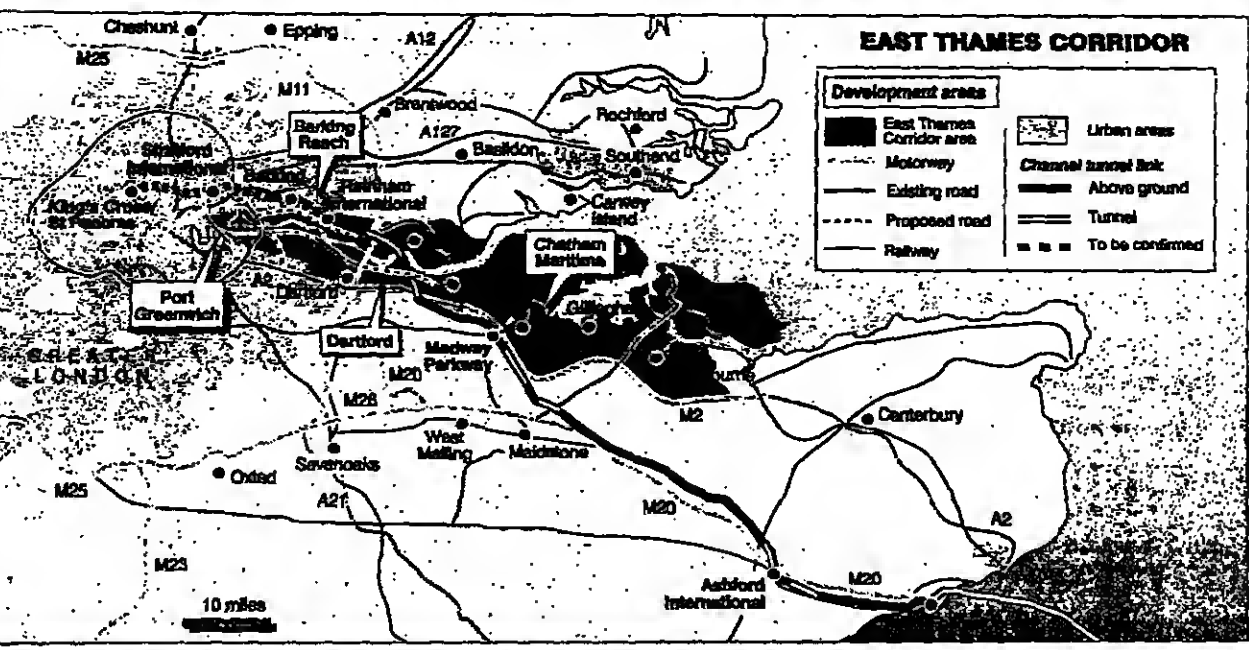
Meanwhile, four private sector schemes at Dartford, Port Green, Chatham Maritime, Barking Reach, which have all been given planning permission (see right), give a sense of what future development in the corridor may be like.

The schemes are to be built largely on derelict land, some of it contaminated: at Dartford, 90 per cent of the land was previously dominated by a cement factory; at Chatham Maritime, the land was once part of the naval dockyards at Barking Reach; the site was derelict. The first houses should be on sale next spring. Other development in the east Thames could be much longer in coming.

The area is best imagined as a string of mini new towns



Far from the madding crowd: havens for wildlife, such as Elmley Marsh, above, will be protected from development



## CHATHAM MARITIME

On a 350-acre site between Rochester and Gillingham, Kent English Estates plans to build 2,000 homes, a marina, a 67-acre enterprise zone and two million sq ft of commercial buildings. Fifteen hundred of the homes will be built as a joint venture with Countryside Properties on 100 acres in an area known as St Mary's Island. This will be a residential community. A school, church, shopping centre, leisure and health centres are also planned. The other 500 homes will be built among the commercial properties.

## DARTFORD

Blue Circle Properties has 2,500 acres of land between

Dartford and Gravesend which has been designated Eurocity Dartford. This area will be capable of taking 12,500 homes and providing up to 34,500 jobs. Blue Circle is looking for a joint development partner. The company hopes that a train station will be built connecting with the international station at Dartford. There will be a mix of house types and sizes, together with business, conference and leisure centres.

## BARKING REACH

Six thousand housing units, mostly of family accommodation, are to be built on 800 acres stretching from the River Roding to the Ford motor works at Dagenham and north/south from the London

to Southend railway line to the Thames. The London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, in conjunction with National Power (whose land it is) and Bellway Homes will be looking to build 25 per cent "affordable" housing, with the medium to higher range of homes being on the two miles of river frontage. The project will be built around existing canals and there will be nothing over three storeys high. The borough hopes that the scheme will give local people a chance to move up the housing ladder into a three or four-bedroom house with garden. The new town will eventually have a 15,000 population. Three to four sites will be designated nature conservancy areas and a park

will divide the residential area from a new manufacturing area to the east.

## PORT GREENWICH

British Gas Properties has a 296-acre site on the Greenwich peninsula about which the finer details are still to be completed. Plans at the moment are for 130 acres to be used for 5,500 homes. 50 acres will go to business use, 20 acres as a shopping area, and 40 acres of public open space. A listed terrace of houses and pub will be preserved and there will also be a new school. So far no developer has been decided on. The company's other site, Gallions Reach, Beckton, will be developed for industrial, retail and office use.

# A village for living in

Variety is the key to developing a community from scratch

The birth of a new village in Essex was marked last week by the planting of a tree. The gesture was appropriate. What will become Great Noddy is described by the developers as a "garden village".

On the other side of Britain, Tiroed Forest Village, eight miles north of Swansea, is taking shape in a clearing of Penllegar Forest — Tiroed is Welsh for "A place in the woods."

These are two of the seven new towns or villages which are being built in Britain, according to the environment department. Most of the 200 other villages that were on planning authority books in 1991 have fallen foul of planners, protesters or the recession. Yet the government estimates that 2.8 million new homes will be needed in England and Wales between 1991 and 2011.

Nothing causes more controversy among conservationists, developers and planners than new villages. Tony Burton, senior planner of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, says: "We don't need them to accommodate housing needs, we think there is sufficient capacity in and around towns to create housing in a less damaging way."

The Town and Country Planning Association disagrees. David Hall, its director, says: "There are various advantages in creating new villages: because you start from scratch you can get a better balance, and this is important in the context of trying to go for sustainability." The best argument for new villages, Mr Hall says, is that people want to live in them.

The most striking feature about plans for Great Noddy is the rural, spacious feel, a throw-back to Sir Ebenezer Howard's garden city ideas for Letchworth and Welwyn Garden City.

Countryside Properties, the developer, has gone to some lengths to imbue the village with what it calls "great character". At the village's heart will be a green. There will be a public house, a community centre, a church, a school, a £1.4 million sports centre, an all-weather pitch, a doctor's surgery, a supermarket, a

post office and shops. A 400,000 sq ft business park will include a hotel and conference facilities.

The clusters of 2,400 new homes, of all types, three miles from Braintree, will embody much of the current thinking on creative planning, and could set a refreshing trend. "Landscaping can make such a difference, we want to create a mature environment as quickly as possible," Richard Cherry, Countryside's managing director, says. "The buildings are important too and by using a variety of local materials and different elevational forms we can vary their style."

The village has been planned in conjunction with Braintree District Council. "There was a good spirit about the whole thing from the start," says Roger Barrett, the council's director of planning. "We hope Great Noddy will be remarkable for its design and layout and that we can use it as a prototype."

Meanwhile, in Tiroed, the first householders are already settling in. The four partners in the Pentref Development Company, which is creating the village, hope eventually to apply Sir Ebenezer's principles to other sites.

Since the company is not run for profit — the four have worked only for their fees — house prices are competitive, between £48,000 and £100,000. Of the 48 houses in the first phase, 38 have been sold. The next phase includes 30 sheltered homes and 15 plots for self-builders.

"We admire the social values of Howard's thinking," says Bernard Williams, a surveyor and one of the Pentref partners. "We wanted to create an example of how a community could be built, and wanted to be free of the commercial ethic. We don't admire the typical housing estate."

The 500 homes will be divided into seven hamlets. There will be a variety of housing types in mixed groupings, and a village pond. Any profits (there can be none until hamlet five is finished) will go to a village trust to spend on the community.

CHRISTINE WEBB

# Give us the old, old storeys

The collapse of a Glasgow tenement should not blight all such properties

Glasgow's typical four-storey tenement buildings came into sharp focus last week with the collapse of a block, trapping a woman for three hours.

Nobody had identified the cause of the collapse of the building in Springfield Road, a recently refurbished sandstone block owned by Parkhead Housing Association. Naturally, tenement-dwellers are worried. Are they living in death-traps?

Experts say that the construction of tenements, most of which were put up in the 1870s, is less at fault than the land beneath, much of which contains mine workings. In the case of Springfield Road, the block was next to a plot where foundations were being dug for new houses.

Keith Kintree, a lecturer from Glasgow University's centre of housing research, says: "Tenements usually collapse because of the land on which they were built. Much of Glasgow is built on old mines and coal workings, and a lot of instability is caused by the hollow land underneath buildings. They are often built on infill sites, rubble or old refuse tips."

The city's estimated 150,000 tenement buildings are, therefore, only slightly more dangerous than other residential buildings in the city, according to Mr Kintree. "It would be wrong to label these buildings as death-traps," he says. "They are only death-traps more at risk compared with slightly more at risk than other residential structures of the same age because they are taller and more complex buildings. There's more to go wrong, and when it does, it affects more people."

Scottish Homes, the quango which funds housing associations, confirms that there have been very few collapses in Glasgow in the past ten years.

At the end of the second world war, about 750,000 of Glasgow's one million inhabitants lived in the city's estimated 210,000 tenement buildings, both in the public and private sectors. In 1957, on a wave of optimism, planners decided to rip down the city's 19th century housing and replace it with high-rise flats in 29 development areas. About 97,000 tenement buildings were to be de-



Ruined homes: the collapsed tenement in Springfield Road

molished. By the end of the 1960s, 60,000 buildings had gone.

By the 1970s, there was a backlash against clearance and demolition throughout the country, not just because of social disruption to the communities based round a tenement's "close" — the corridor running through the building — but also because of the cost. Extensive refurbishment of the city's tenements has followed, led by Scottish Homes. The

people living in closely packed blocks, is to be redeveloped with new tenement buildings. The architects CZWG, from London, will build the four-storey blocks in partnership with Scottish Homes.

Over the past ten to 15 years, housing associations and Glasgow's local authority have made grants available to private landlords and owners for the renovation of tenements. Consequently, the sort of buildings which gave tenements a

bad name and reputation still exist but are becoming less common. There has been a general upgrading, with appearances improved by sandblasting and external repairs, and many have also been refurbished internally.

The agents Hacking and Paterson deal with a large number and wide variety of tenements. Ian Hart, a partner, says that large properties in the West End of the city are very popular. These were mainly built at the turn of the century out of red sandstone, and, although many suffered war damage, they are, Mr Hart says, "still very attractive and tend to sell quickly."

Prices range from £80,000 to £130,000. Smaller flats go for £30,000 to £50,000 and the market is being kept buoyant by first-time buyers. Recently, Mr Hart sold a three-bedroom tenement flat for £98,000. Another, a recently proportioned two-bed first floor apartment in a red sandstone building, went for £87,000.

Tenement flats usually have generously proportioned rooms with high ceilings. Mr Hart says: "There is a huge difference between them and modern flats, and they remain more popular."

Maidland Walker, a valuer at Slater Hogg and Howison, contends that tenements "represent good value for money at the moment". But he emphasises that because tenements are a city-wide phenomenon there is a vast range in value, location and quality. "The demand for quality tenement flats in certain parts of the West End, such as North Kelvinside, Broomhill and particularly Hyndland, is constant and they have never stopped moving."

This year Slater Hogg and Howison had a three-bedroom flat in Hyndland on the market at £93,000 which was sold for £103,000. A one-bedroom flat also went for 10 per cent over the base price. Mr Walker says: "The top end is selling well, and there is competition but prices must be keen."

RACHEL KELLY

# From a stately home to a sad monument

The failing fortunes of Revesby Abbey reflect a market in the doldrums

Revesby Abbey, a mid-Victorian Grade I listed house in Lincolnshire, was auctioned last week. Built in the Elizabethan style from Ancaster stone and noted for its fine sub-Renaissance detailing, it was sold to an unidentified buyer for a knock-down price of £41,000.

But this is not just another simple recession story of falling prices. Behind the descriptions and the price lies a now familiar tale of neglect. As developers have gone bust or dormant, more and more stately homes which might once have become hotels or golf clubs are left to the elements. Neil Burton, English Heritage's inspector for Lincolnshire, says that the house needs a considerable amount of money spent on it.

Revesby Abbey's history started in 1844 when it was designed by William Burn, the Scottish country house architect, for the Stanhope family, local landed aristocracy. After the second world war it was converted into flats and gradually fell into neglect and near dereliction.

The conservation officer for the local authority, Robert Walker, has worked hard to rescue the house but found that with existing powers, and the limited means of a rural council, even the repair work was out of the question. For this reason, English Heritage became involved. In 1988 it persuaded the secretary of state to serve a notice on the abbey's owner and landlady requiring urgent repairs. English Heritage picked up the bill for this holding operation before taking the owner to court to recover the costs. The owner then sold the house for about a quarter

of a million pounds to the property developers, the ELL group. The arrival of the recession meant that the company was not able to develop the abbey, so the building's decline continued.

The case of Revesby Abbey is unusual only for the amount of attention it has received. Its

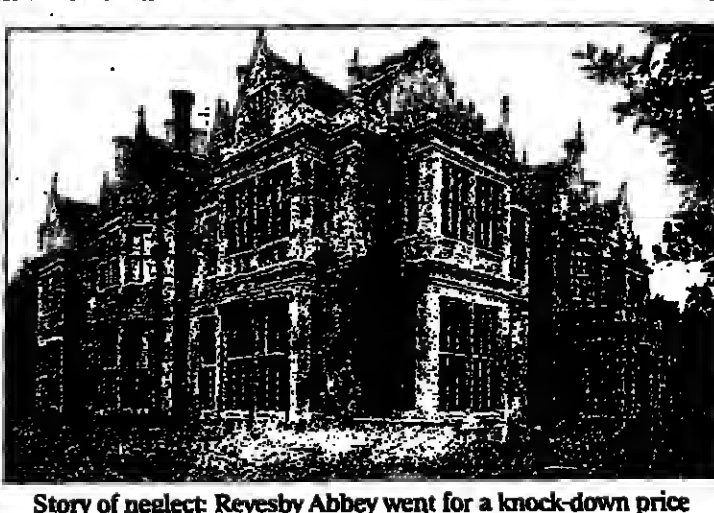
buildings for five or six years without a serious deterioration occurring."

With limited powers and resources, it is difficult to see what councils can do to solve the problem. There are signs that Peter Brooke, the heritage secretary, may incline more to intervention. His department is at present considering whether to issue a compulsory purchase order on a Grade I listed crescent in Buxton, Derbyshire.

What is Revesby Abbey's future? Mr Burton, at English Heritage, says: "The sale is a key element but it is only the starting point." He fears that the new owners will find it almost as difficult as the last to come up with a beneficial use for the house.

Mr Burton asserts that English Heritage is "determined that it won't stay untouched as it has done". Mr Walker is equally cautious in his welcome of the sale, saying: "It offers some encouragement, and its price is at least a realistic reflection of the state of the building."

JAMES FISHER



Story of neglect: Revesby Abbey went for a knock-down price



# Tapie adopts fatherly approach for cup clash

Lesley Hussell experiences European Cup fever in Marseilles on eve of the match against Scottish champions Rangers

THE European Cup fever in Marseilles this week prompted their manager, Raymond Goethals, to wish he could spirit his team away for a quick retreat at a monastery. Tickets priced at up to £180 have done nothing to dampen the gleeful anticipation sweeping the city ahead of tonight's match against Rangers.

With the winner guaranteed a place in the final, and modesty not being a noted local attribute, a handsome victory is expected. The Marseilles squad has been holed up for two days in a luxury country hotel 15 miles from the Mediterranean port. "I wish it were a monastery," Goethals, 71, said. "The city is going mad, and we need peace." Rangers are reckoned to be a powerful and dangerous foe, and Bernard Tapie, the Marseilles president, is due at the hotel this afternoon for a father-to-son style chat with each player. "They are not machines, they need reassuring," he explains. But it is the flamboyant Tapie who probably needs most reassuring. He admits he is obsessed with the European Cup, a prize never won by a French club. He is also, however, a devout glory-hunter, and cannot stand failure.

If Marseilles do not lift the trophy this season, at the fourth time of trying, the self-made millionaire may decide to give up. "You can lose interest all of a sudden," he said this week. The supporters are just as demanding. A capacity crowd is expected, despite initial grumbles at tickets priced at £25 for the terraces, £80 for an average seat, and £180 for the best. A gateman at the Stade Velodrome said: "They've been buying 50 at a time, with orders for a whole block of flats or for every customer in a bar."

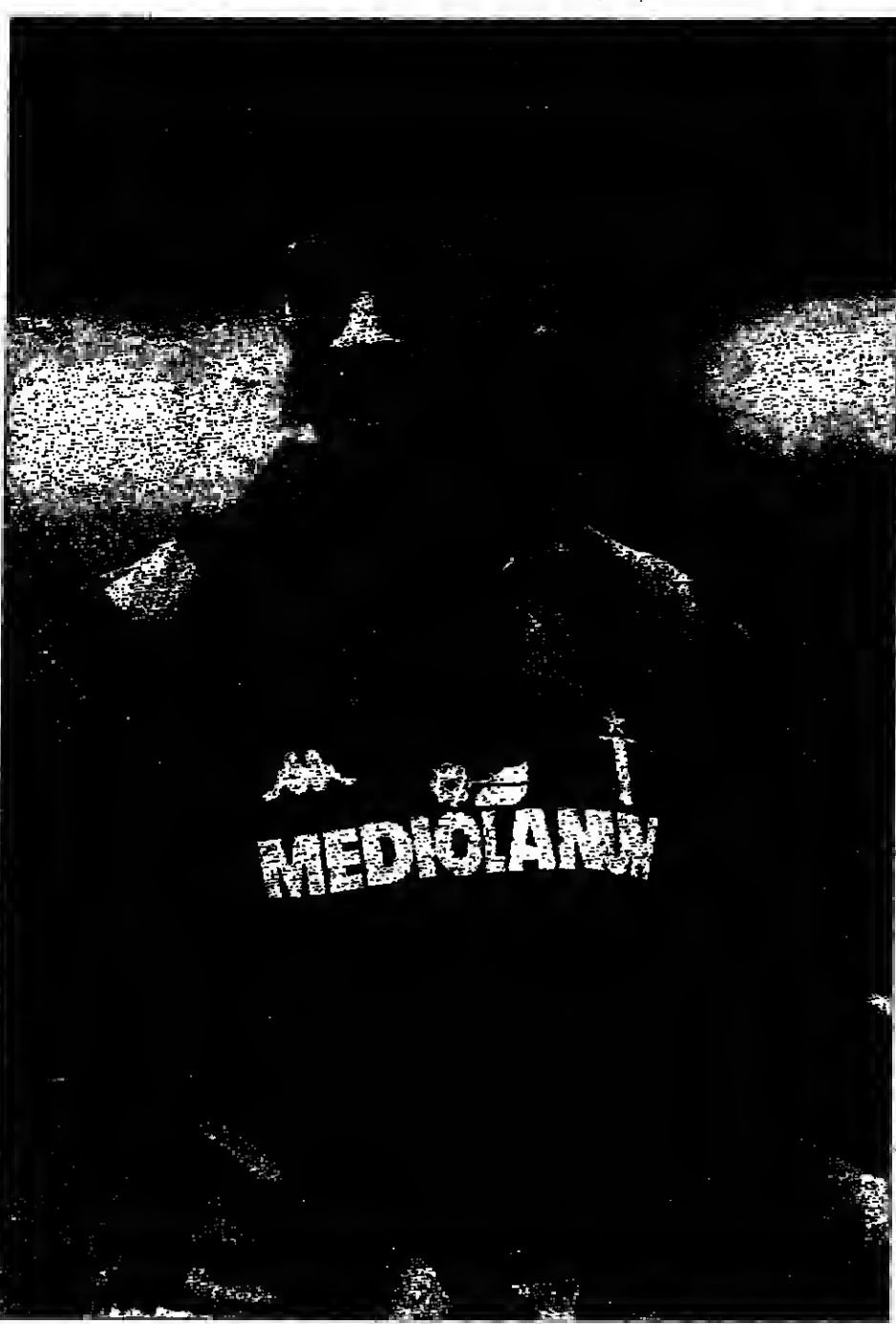
A music festival scheduled for tonight has been scrapped. The organisers explained that with 40,000 at the game and the rest of the city watching live on television, there was no point bothering.

Marseilles are in such a good mood that even the news that the Scots would be bringing their own chef and food to guard against poisonings raised a smile rather than indignation. Goethals is clear of the injury worries which looked ominous a month ago, the mid-season crisis that followed a series of embarrassing defeats is forgotten, and unsettling transfer speculation has been stamped on.

The "dream team" of Papin-Waddell-Moser which lost the European Cup on penalties at Bari two years ago is just a memory, but in attack, Goethals can line up the formidable strike force of Rudi Voller and Allen Boksic, flanked by Abedi Pele, Africa's Player of the Year.

His defence includes three French internationals, Basile Boli, Jocelyn Angloma, and Eric di Meo, his midfield two more, Didier Deschamps and Franck Sauzeau. Marseilles' weekend win over St Etienne puts them back on top of the French League, and on course for a fifth consecutive title. As Pele put it on Monday: "More for the Rangers game couldn't be higher."

Pele is determined to make up for the disappointment of Ghana's elimination from the World Cup and to put on a display that will be a stepping stone to a new career in Italy. "I put everything I had into the matches," he said. "I really wanted to get to the United States and it was tough when Algeria put us out. Now I want to make up for that and end my spell at Marseilles with a European Cup final against AC Milan."



Rijkgaard: midfield role for AC Milan against IFK Gothenburg in Sweden tonight

## Gullit and Papin out of favour

FABIO Capello, the AC Milan coach, has preferred the Montenegrin, Dejan Savicevic, to Rudi Gullit, of Holland, and the Frenchman, Jean-Pierre Papin, for the European Cup match against IFK Gothenburg in Sweden tonight that is expected to decide who will win group B and meet either Marseilles or Rangers in the final.

With the Croat, Zvonimir Boban, and Frank Rijkaard, of Holland, included in midfield, Capello's remaining selection problem concerned his third foreigner. "Savicevic is on from the beginning because he is the freshest

player of all and he may prove very useful," Capello said. Savicevic has played only nine minutes of European Cup football this season, having come on at the end of Milan's most recent tie, the 1-0 defeat of Porto. He was a member of the Red Star Belgrade side which won the European Cup in 1991.

Gothenburg are seeking a 4-0 win to cancel out the defeat they suffered in Milan in November. If the sides finish the group level on points, the outcome is decided by the results between the two. Gothenburg trail Milan by two points with two games

to come and if they do not win tonight, the Italian champions will be in an unassailable position before the last round of matches on April 21.

Roger Gustafsson, the Gothenburg coach, believes his side can reverse the 4-0 scoreline. "If we are ever going to beat the world's best club side, now is the time," he said.

Claudio Caniggia, the Argentinean striker who plays for AS Roma, has failed a second drugs test. An Italian news agency reported yesterday, Caniggia, who tested positive for cocaine, could be banned for up to two years.

## Pearce's future as England captain in doubt

By CHRIS MOORE

STUART Pearce's future as captain of England appeared in question last night after his worst fears had been confirmed. The Nottingham Forest defender, who had an exploratory operation on a groin injury on Monday, is to go back into hospital next week to undergo more surgery.

It means he will miss his club's last seven games in their fight against relegation from the Premier League and will also be unavailable for England's next six internationals, including the three World Cup qualifying ties against Holland (April 28), Poland (May 29) and Norway (June 2).

The England squad will then be taking part in a four-team summer tournament in the United States. David Platt, the former Aston Villa and Crewe Alexandra player, has deputised for Pearce as England's captain in the last two World Cup qualifying ties against San Marino at Wembley and Turkey in Izmir.

It now seems certain he will assume the role for the next six games as well, at the end of which, Graham Taylor, the England manager, may consider promoting him permanently.

As if Brian Clough, the beleaguered Forest manager, has not enough problems on his plate, there was a further injury setback for him yesterday when the winger, Ian Woan, was ruled out of tonight's Premier League game against Blackburn Rovers at the City Ground because of a hamstring strain.

If Forest are relegated it is bound to put a question mark against the future at the club of their international players, including Pearce, Roy Keane and Nigel Clough. Manchester City will discover on Friday what penalty they must pay for the FA Cup quarter-final pitch invasion at Maine Road.

City were charged with failing to control their supporters following the incident last month when mounted police were called in to quell trouble during the 4-2 home defeat by Tottenham Hotspur.

## Zelezny shatters Backley's record

IAN Zelezny, the Czech Olympic javelin champion, threw a world record 95.54m yesterday, beating the 91.46 set by Steve Backley, of Britain, in January last year. Zelezny achieved the mark with his first throw at the Sanlam Super athletics meeting in the northern town of Pietersburg, South Africa. It easily outstripped his winning distance of 89.66 in Barcelona and also beat his disallowed world best of 94.74, which was recorded in Oslo last July but ruled illegal because of the javelin's removable carbon fibre shaft.

Zelezny is in South Africa for training with friends, who include the former American thrower, Tom Petranoff, who is now a naturalised South African. "Yes, I am very happy, but this is still only training," he said. Zelezny is preparing for the world championships in Stuttgart, Germany, later this year. It was the first world athletics record set in South Africa since the country turned its back on apartheid and won readmission to the international sporting arena last year.

## Top players sidelined

RUGBY LEAGUE: Wigan, who yesterday complained to the Rugby Football League (RFL) about the refereeing of the match they lost at Castleford on Sunday, may be without five international players against St Helens on Friday. Kelvin Skerrett, Andy Platt, Dean Bell and Billy McGinty have withdrawn with injury, and Andrew Farrar is doubtful after twisting an ankle at Castleford. The RFL board yesterday fined Paul Bishop, of Halifax, and Sean Devine, of Oldham, £200, with £100 suspended, for making obscene gestures to spectators after recent games.

## Wharton tests hand

BOXING: Henry Wharton, of York, returns tonight at the Leeds Town Hall after an absence of seven months, during which the British and Commonwealth super-middleweight champion has had an operation on a knuckle on his right hand. Wharton is the No. 1 challenger for Nigel Benn's World Boxing Council title and Mickey Duff, Wharton's manager, wants to make sure the hand is completely healed before he takes on Benn. "Benn has never fought anyone like Wharton. He will knock Benn out," Duff said. Wharton tonight faces Ray Demenge, of Omaha in the United States.

## Brighton event safe

TENNIS: The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) confirmed yesterday that the annual women's indoor tournament in Brighton will take place this year, even though it has yet to find a sponsor for the event. The Midland Bank, sponsor of the tournament at the Brighton Centre for the past five years, withdrew its support at the end of last year. Ian Peacock, the chief executive of the LTA, said: "We were keen to ensure that an event of this quality remained in the country."

## Parrott knocked out

SNOOKER: John Parrott goes to the Embassy world championship that starts in Sheffield on Saturday week still searching for the early-season form which carried him to tournament victories in China and Dubai. Parrott, the 1991 world champion, was beaten 5-4 by Jason Ferguson, the world No. 62, in the fourth round of the Sky Sports International Open in Plymouth yesterday after leading 4-2. David Harrison, the chief executive of the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association yesterday announced his resignation for "personal, family reasons".

## MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR COMPANY GOLF DAY

In response to the continued growth in the number of company golf days and their importance to the host companies, The Times and Olivetti announce the first ever major UK corporate golf competition.

The Challenge will allow companies to get the maximum value from their golf day, beyond simply cementing business relationships on the day itself, and offers the host company the opportunity to become UK Corporate Golf Champion, enjoying many benefits along the way.

### A CHANCE TO REACH THE REGIONAL FINALS

The 25 companies in each of five regions whose winner and three runners-up have the highest aggregate scores will compete in a regional final at a top local course during October 1993.

Note: Three of the team of four must be employees of the host company. The playing team of four may be accompanied at the final by one non-playing representative of the host company. All players must have an official club handicap.

### THEN THERE'S THE UK NATIONAL FINAL AT HYATT LA MANGA CLUB RESORT

The winning company from each region will go forward to compete for The Times Olivetti Challenge Shield over Thursday 25th - Monday 29th November 1993, on the South Course of the renowned Hyatt La Manga Club Resort, with return flights courtesy of Iberia.

Approved by the R&A for the payment of expenses-Rule 1-4 Ex.7 R&A64/93

The cost of taking up The Times Olivetti Corporate Golf Challenge is just £150 (plus VAT) per company, which includes the cost of a trophy and shields for your golf day.

The Challenge is open to any UK based company which holds an amateur golf day on or before 15th September 1993 for 25 players or more and which registers by 30th July.

### OFFICIAL AIRLINE

IBERIA



Send this completed coupon for full details and a registration form to The Times Olivetti Corporate Golf Challenge, 77-78 Bolsover Street, London W1P 7TH.

NAME  
TITLE  
COMPANY NAME AND ADDRESS

THE TIMES OLIVETTI CORPORATE GOLF CHALLENGE

### THE TIMES OLIVETTI TROPHY

A trophy will be provided for presentation to the winner of the day's individual 18 hole Stableford competition, plus shields for the three runners-up, all event-branded and personalised to the host company.

### PRE-EVENT PUBLICITY IN THE TIMES

A regular "feature list" will appear on the sports page featuring the host company's name and the date and venue of their golf day.

### RESULTS OF THE EVENTS IN THE TIMES

The names of the winners and their scores will appear in a regular results column in The Times, with supporting editorial and features on some of the days and players.

So if you are organising your company's golf day, or just looking forward to playing in it (and others!) call 071-436 3415 or send off the completed coupon to: The Times Olivetti Corporate Golf Challenge, 77-78 Bolsover Street, London W1P 7TH.

## Golf challenge off to flying start

By MRS WISE

THE Times Olivetti Corporate Golf Challenge got off to a successful start yesterday when the first company day was held in a nationwide competition that will culminate in an all-expenses-paid final in Spain in November.

The challenge, launched two weeks ago, has attracted entries from all over the country, and the privilege of staging the first golf day in the challenge fell to Citibank Mortgage, who held a competition for 52 members of staff and guests at Sunningdale yesterday.

The first company to register for the challenge was Bride Hall Group plc, who have



been associated with Nick Faldo since 1987. The Open champion and world No. 1 will be the company's guest of honour when they hold their golf day at Brocket Hall, in Hertfordshire, on April 30. Bride Hall had registered within 48 hours of the competition's announcement in The Times on March 24.

"We were interested in entering the challenge from the moment we heard about it," William Morde, finance director of Bride Hall, said. "We

run a couple of golf days a year, and are looking forward to bringing an extra element of competition to what are always very pleasant days."

The challenge is the first major corporate golf competition in the United Kingdom, and John Mitchell, the man whose brainchild it was, has been overwhelmed by the response from companies.

"We have had more than 500 enquiries since the launch, and we are confidently expecting a take-up of at least 90 per cent," he said. "We have had to lay in extra phone lines to cope with the demand, and we are getting dozens of completed registration forms in every day. The response has been far in excess of our

expectations when we started, and we are very encouraged by the enthusiasm of companies for the concept of the challenge."

Any company that stages a golf day in which at least 25 players take part is eligible to register for the challenge. Competition will consist of an 18-hole Stableford, with players off % of a maximum 24 handicap for men and 30 for women.

Five regional finals will be held, and the best 25 teams will go forward to the national final from November 25 to 29 on the famous South Course at the Hyatt La Manga Club in southern Spain. The names of winners and their scores will appear regularly in The Times.

### Pontefract

Going good

2.40 (1m 25.4s) 1. White Muzzle (J. Reid, 6-11) 2. Blue Gypsy (11-2) 3. Lifford (8-1) 4. Mr. N. P. Arc. (8-1) 5. Lifford (8-1) 6. Mr. N. P. Arc. (8-1) 7. Lifford (8-1) 8. Mr. N. P. Arc. (8-1) 9. Lifford (8-1) 10. Mr. N. P. Arc. (8-1) 11. Lifford (8-1) 12. Mr. N. P. Arc. (8-1) 13. Lifford (8-1) 14. Mr. N. P. Arc. (8-1) 15. Lifford (8-1) 16. Mr. N. P. Arc. (8-1) 17. Lifford (8-1) 18. Mr. N. P. Arc. (8-1) 19. Lifford (8-1) 20. Mr. N. P. Arc. (8-1) 21. Lifford (8-1) 22. Mr. N. P. Arc. (8-1) 23. Lifford (8-1) 24. Mr. N. P. Arc. (8-1) 25. Lifford (8-1) 26. Mr. N. P. Arc. (8-1) 27. Lifford (8-1) 28. Mr. N. P. Arc. (8-1) 29. Lifford (8-1) 30. Mr. N. P. Arc. (8-1) 31. Lifford (8-1) 32. Mr. N. P. Arc. (8-1) 33. Lifford (8-1) 34. Mr. N. P. Arc. (8-1) 35. Lifford (8-1) 36. Mr. N. P. Arc. (8-1) 37. Lifford (8-1) 38. Mr. N. P. Arc. (8-1) 39. Lifford (8-1) 40. Mr. N. P. Arc. (8-1) 41. Lifford (8-1) 42. Mr. N. P. Arc. (8-1) 43. Lifford (8-1) 44. Mr. N. P. Arc. (8-1) 45. Lifford (8-1) 46. Mr. N. P. 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## Holder stakes claim for Test place

FROM JOHN WOODCOCK  
IN GEORGETOWN, GUYANA

THE Pakistanis failed to take a wicket on the second morning of their three-day match against the West Indies Board President's XI here yesterday. In 32 overs the President's XI added 103 runs. Keith Arthurton, the captain, and Roland Holder, who has been talked of for some years as a future Test player, playing the faster bowlers more forcefully than the slower ones.

The retirement after last Saturday's one-day international of Gus Logie, the "cheeky chappie" of the international game, makes it more likely that there will be a place for a new batsman in the West Indian side for next week's first Test match. That is what Holder was playing for. A 25-year-old Barbadian, he could be mistaken for Gordon Greenidge in build, method and intent.

When he was dropped at long leg, looking at Rehman, the Pakistanis must have expected to pay for it. Holder was the heaviest scorer in this season's Red Stripe Cup, the only batsman to make three centuries, and his fellow Everton Weekes, approves of the way he looks to attack.

Logie was never in quite the highest class as a batsman. That he was in so many winning West Indian teams, in spite of that, was because of his brilliant fielding, whether at short leg or in the covers, and an infectious enthusiasm. Quite often, too, he played a rescuing innings, coming at No. 6, after the more illustrious batsmen before him had got out. If his successor in the West Indian side, whoever he may be, plays with a batting average of 35.8, holds 57 Test catches and remains buoyant for as long as Logie, he will do well.

Pakistanis First innings: 256-8 dec (Inzamam-ul-Haq 84, Imran Khan 75, S Chanderpaul 4-88).  
West Indies President's XI  
First innings  
D.A. Joseph 10, A.A. 4, S.C. Williams 10, P. Nadeem 11, R.C. Holder not out 61, K.L.T. Arthurton not out 47, Extras (lb 1, nb 2) 3  
Total (2 wickets) 128  
J.C. Adams, S. Chanderpaul, H. O. Jacobs, B. Brown, K.G. Bonar, A. C. Cummins and D. G. Gibson to bat.  
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-11, 2-23, 3-30, 4-37, 5-47, 6-57, 7-67, 8-75, 9-88, 10-98, 11-108, 12-118, 13-128, 14-138, 15-148, 16-158, 17-168, 18-178, 19-188, 20-198, 21-208, 22-218, 23-228, 24-238, 25-248, 26-258, 27-268, 28-278, 29-288, 30-298, 31-308, 32-318.

# Langer ready to clear major obstacle

STEVE MUNDAY/ALLSPORT



Drive time: Langer has fought hard to overcome the dreaded yips on three occasions and has now turned his attentions towards improving his swing

Severiano Ballesteros strode up to the 18th green at Augusta National on Monday, acknowledging the applause of the fans and looking anything but a man in the last throes of his career. He was in his element at one of the places he loves best, even though it was only a practice round, on a damp, dark day, he lit up the scene.

Back down the fairway, head bowed over a notebook, a slight, more naturally unobtrusive, figure was studiously writing details. It was Bernhard Langer, one of Ballesteros's playing companions, plotting his strategy for this week's Masters.

One of golf's enduring mysteries is Langer's failure to win more than one major championship. Eight years ago, standing on the 18th tee in the final round of the championship, Ballesteros had slapped Langer on the back and said to him: "It's all yours." And it was. Langer, the bricklayer's son from Anhausen, became the second European to win a green jacket, following the lead set by the fisherman's son from Pedernera.

Ballesteros, champion in 1980 and 1983, was second in 1985, two shots behind Langer, alongside Raymond Floyd

## Patricia Davies assesses Bernhard Langer's chances of winning his second major title in the US Masters at Augusta National

and Curtis Strange, who had led the tournament by four strokes with nine holes to play and by three with six to play. Strange had what looked like a mini-brainstorm at the 13th, where he took six after trying, and failing, to play the ball out of a semi-submerged lie in Rae's Creek.

"That wasn't my downfall," he contended. "It was 15 that cost me the tournament." That was where he hit his second shot, with a four-iron, into the water and took another bogey six.

Up ahead, Langer, dressed in red, a colour he still favours, holed a 14-foot putt for a birdie three at the 17th to lead by two shots. He took away a sterling replica of the Masters trophy, a gold medal, a silver box engraved with the players' signatures, a crystal vase for the low score on the third day, and a pair of crystal goblets for an eagle three at the 13th on the same day.

Most important of all, he had a permanent invitation to return to Augusta every April

and a permanent place at the champions' dinner.

At the time, nobody, least of all Langer himself, imagined that he would reach 1993 and the age of 35 with that solitary major to his name. After all, he had already been runner-up twice in the Open championship — at Royal St George's in 1981, behind Bill Rogers, and at St Andrews in 1984, behind Ballesteros.

As Masters champion, Langer finished third at Royal St George's in 1985, his chip to the Sandy Lyle and force a play-off sliding agonisingly past the hole. He was third again at Turnberry the following year, some way behind Greg Norman.

He finished in the top ten in the US Open in 1986 and 1987 and has three times been in the top ten at Augusta since his victory. He has more than 30 victories to his credit worldwide but has developed a frustrating habit of coming up a little short in the majors.

"In 1985, I thought I would win again very quickly," he

said. "In '86 and '87, I had good chances. But in 1988 I hurt my back and that affected my game. Then my putting was affected because my game was bad and that affected my confidence. It is hard to get back to the point where you can win championships because there are so many demands at that level."

Langer's battles with the putting yips — he has over-

come them three times by changing his style — are well known. His present method, the "Langer Lock", was developed to counteract a slump in 1989.

"It takes several joints, like the wrists and elbows, more or less out of action," he explained. "I try to put with the shoulders because a lot of the problems come with the small muscles in the fingers and

hands." Now he feels it is his swing, not his putting, that is not consistent enough.

"Over the next year or so, I'm going to change it," he said. "It will take time because it feels like a radical change, so I will take it gently. Besides, I can still play okay without the change."

Langer is a patient man and, over the years, has learned to accommodate his faults while working hard to eliminate them.

He hopes with the game he has and believes that when he is playing well — as he is at the moment, having finished second — to Nick Price in the Players' Championship — he can beat anybody.

It would be unwise, to be against a man who has had the strength of character to beat the yips three times and who, when asked about the missed final putt in the last Ryder Cup at Kiawah Island, said, without hesitation, that he would welcome the chance to be in the same situation again.

Langer — like Ben Crenshaw, Norman Price, Tom Kite and even Larry Mize, who have all won this season — is too good a player to be saddled with the one major wonder tag.



Join the club: Langer is congratulated by Crenshaw, the previous champion, after winning the Masters in 1985

## Hastings echoes concern over sevens

BY DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

GAVIN Hastings, the Scotland full back who will lead the British Isles in New Zealand this summer, yesterday echoed New Zealand criticism of the inaugural Rugby World Cup sevens tournament. "It might be a question of survival of the fittest," Hastings said of the likely finalists in the tournament, at Murrayfield from April 16 to 18.

Over the three days of the tournament there will be 81 matches and the winning team will play eight games. Last month Peter Thorburn, the coach of New Zealand's sevens squad, said: "I don't think it will be the best sevens team that wins at Edinburgh. I think it will be the team that enjoys the greatest luck and has the fewest injuries."

Hastings said: "The standard of sevens rugby is such that the guys who are successful are true athletes: the fitness and endurance they will need is something they haven't faced before."

Charlie Bissett, sevens co-ordinator for the Scottish Rugby Union (SRU), anticipates a full house of 37,500 for the final Sunday (the West Stand is out of commission for the tournament) and has been encouraged by projected figures of 17,000 for the Friday and 25,000 for the Saturday.

There is optimism that commercial revenue will cover the costs of the event, estimated at £2 million. Ticket sales have passed £1 million. Bissett said there had been great interest from England and substantial support groups travelling from South Africa, New Zealand, Australia and North America.

The practice of tactical replacements, which applied at the Hong Kong tournament and has been adopted by the southern hemisphere's Super Ten tournament, will be frowned upon. Any player who seeks to leave the field will have to be "signed off" by an SRU doctor.

Wales and Ireland will field the same squads they used in Hong Kong but the captaincy of the Irish party has passed from Alain Rolland, the Blackrock College scrum half, to Denis McBride, the Malone flanker.

## THE TIMES



## 25% DISCOUNT AT WORCESTER ON 14TH APRIL Rising Stars Final

Readers may obtain a 25% reduction to the Members Enclosure at Worcester race course by purchasing their tickets in advance. Normally £12, members tickets may be obtained for £9 each by sending coupon, remittance and first class stamped addressed envelope to: J H A Bennett Esq, Manager, Worcester Race Course, Pitchcroft, Worcester WR1 3EJ.

Applications must be received by 9th April, 1993.

Please send me MEMBERS ENCLOSURE ticket(s) @ £9.00 each (normal price £12).

I enclose payment by cheque/postal order(s) made payable to:

City of Worcester for the value of £.

(please write name and address on the back).

All applications must be received by 9th April 1993.

(PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS)

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Tel:

## FOOTBALL

NEVILLE OVERDEN COMBINATION: First division: West Ham 1, Norwich City 2. Championship: Bangor 0, Farnborough 1.

Later results on Monday

PREMIER LEAGUE: Norwich City 1, Manchester United 3.

BARCLAYS LEAGUE: Second division: Huddersfield United 1, Plymouth Argyle 0.

NEVILLE OVERDEN COMBINATION: First division: Walsford 0, Charlton 3.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Walsley 0, Sheffield Wednesday 3.

Second division: Walsley 0, Sheffield Wednesday 3.

DIADORA LEAGUE: Premier division: Sutton United 5, Windsor and Eton 2.

Second division: Wokingham 4, Basingstoke 2.

NORTHERN COUNTRIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Sheffield 0, Portlough 2.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Corby 3, Chesham 0. Southern division: Havant 0, Egham and Basingstoke 0.

WES LOANS LEAGUE: Premier division: Wokingham 3, Haverhill 1. First division: Aylesbury 2, Rossendale 0. Curzon Ashton 1, Alton 1. Wokingham 2, Farnley Cote 3.

## GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Plymouth Argyle 1, Dartford 1.

SOUTHEAST COUNTRIES LEAGUE: Cup final: Tottenham 5, Norwich 2.

OTHER MATCH: Portlough 1, Manchester City 1.

BASEBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Florida Marlins 6, Los Angeles Dodgers 3. Cincinnati Reds 3, Montreal Expos 1. New York Mets 3, Colorado Rockies 0. Atlanta Braves 1, Chicago Cubs 0. Philadelphia Phillies 3, Houston Astros 1.

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Texas Rangers 7, Baltimore Orioles 4. New York Yankees 5, Cleveland Indians 1. Boston Red Sox 5, Oakland Athletics 1. Oakland A's 5, Detroit Tigers 4.

BASKETBALL

NEW ORLEANS: NCAA college tournament. First: North Carolina 77, Michigan 71.

BILLIARDS

MADRAS: Premier grand slam championship. First leg: M Hossain (Eng) 6, G Serr (Ind) 7.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

7.30 unless stated

European Cup

Champions League

Group A

CSKA Moscow v Brugge

Marseille v Rangers

Group B

IFK Gothenburg v AC Milan

PSV Eindhoven v Porto

FA Premier League

Nottingham Forest v Blackburn

Sheff Wed v Walsley (7.45)

Nottingham Forest v Blackburn

Sheff Wed v Walsley (7.45)

Barclays League

Leicester v Oxford Utd (7.45)

Luton v Walsley (7.45)

Newcastle v Barnsley (7.45, all tickets)

Southend v West Ham (7.45)

First division

Leicester v Oxford Utd (7.45)

Luton v Walsley (7.45)

Newcastle v Barnsley (7.45, all tickets)

Southend v West Ham (7.45)

Second division

Brighton v Mansfield (7.45)

Huddersfield v Stoke

Reading v Chester (7.45)

West Brom v Swindon

GM Vauxhall Conference

Boston v Slough

Wes Loans League: Premier division:

Accrington Stanley v Walsley (7.45)

Forest Green v Walsley (7.45)

Second leg: Walsley (1)

Walsley (1) v Walsley (1)

NORTHERN COUNTRIES EAST LEAGUE:

Premier division: Brigg v Belper.

## BOWLS

CAPE TOWN: International matches:

South Africa (SA) 1, A. Alcock (Eng) 25-22.

First round: South Africa (SA) 1, A. Alcock (Eng) 25-22.

Second round: South Africa (SA) 1, A. Alcock (Eng) 25-22.

Third round: South Africa (SA) 1, A. Alcock (Eng) 25-22.

Fourth round: South Africa (SA) 1, A. Alcock (Eng) 25-22.

Fifth round: South Africa (SA) 1, A. Alcock (Eng) 25-22.

Sixth round: South Africa (SA) 1, A. Alcock (Eng) 25-22.

Seventh round: South Africa (SA) 1, A. Alcock (Eng) 25-22.

Eighth round: South Africa (SA) 1, A. Alcock (Eng) 25-22.

Ninth round: South Africa (SA) 1, A. Alcock (Eng) 25-22.

Tenth round: South Africa (SA) 1, A. Alcock (Eng) 25-22.

Eleventh round: South Africa (SA) 1, A. Alcock (Eng) 25-22.

Twelfth round: South Africa (SA) 1, A. Alcock (Eng) 25-22.

Thirteenth round: South Africa (SA) 1, A. Alcock (Eng) 25-22.

Fourteenth round: South Africa (SA) 1, A. Alcock (Eng) 25-22.

Fifteenth round: South Africa (SA) 1, A. Alcock (Eng) 25-22.

Sixteenth round: South Africa (SA) 1, A. Alcock (Eng) 25-22.

Seventeenth round: South Africa (SA) 1, A. Alcock (Eng) 25-22.

Eighteenth round: South Africa (SA) 1, A. Alcock (Eng) 25-22.

Nineteenth round: South Africa (SA) 1, A. Alcock (Eng) 25-22.

Twentieth round: South Africa (SA) 1, A. Alcock (Eng) 25-22.

Twenty-first round: South Africa (SA) 1, A. Alcock (Eng) 25-22.

Twenty-second round: South Africa (SA) 1, A. Alcock (Eng) 25-22.

Twenty-third round: South Africa (SA) 1, A. Alcock (Eng) 25-22.

Twenty-fourth round: South Africa (SA) 1, A. Alcock (Eng) 25-22.

Twenty-fifth round: South Africa (SA) 1, A. Alcock (Eng) 25-22.

Twenty-sixth round: South Africa (SA) 1, A. Alcock (Eng) 25-22.

Twenty-seventh round: South Africa (SA) 1, A. Alcock (Eng) 25-22.

Twenty-eighth round: South Africa (SA) 1, A. Alcock (Eng) 25-22.

Twenty-ninth round: South Africa (SA) 1, A. Alcock (Eng) 25-22.

Thirtieth round: South Africa (SA) 1, A. Alcock (Eng) 25-22.

Thirty-first round: South Africa (SA) 1, A. Alcock (Eng) 25-22.

Thirty-second round: South Africa (SA) 1, A. Alcock (Eng) 25-22.

Thirty-third round: South Africa (SA) 1, A. Alcock (Eng) 25-22.

Thirty-fourth round: South Africa (SA) 1, A. Alcock (Eng) 25-22.

Thirty-fifth round: South Africa (SA) 1, A. Alcock (Eng) 25-22.

Thirty-sixth round: South Africa (SA) 1, A. Alcock (Eng) 25-22.

Thirty-seventh round: South Africa (SA) 1, A. Alcock (Eng) 25-22.

Thirty-eighth round: South Africa (SA) 1, A. Alcock (Eng) 25-22.

Thirty-ninth round: South Africa (SA) 1, A. Alcock (Eng) 25-22.

Fortieth round: South Africa (SA) 1, A. Alcock (Eng) 25-22.

Forty-first round: South Africa (SA) 1, A. Alcock (Eng) 25-22.

Forty-second round: South Africa (SA) 1, A. Alcock (Eng) 25-22.

Forty-third round: South Africa (SA) 1, A. Alcock (Eng) 25-22.

Forty-fourth round: South Africa (SA) 1, A. Alcock (Eng) 25-22.

Forty-fifth round: South Africa (SA) 1, A. Alcock (Eng) 25-22.

Forty-sixth round: South Africa (SA) 1, A. Alcock (Eng) 25-22.

Forty-seventh round: South Africa (SA) 1, A. Alcock (Eng) 25-22.

Forty-eighth round: South Africa (SA) 1, A. Alcock (Eng) 25-22.

Forty-ninth round: South Africa (SA) 1, A. Alcock (Eng) 25-22.

Fiftieth round: South Africa (SA) 1, A. Alcock (Eng) 25-22.

## GOLF

WEST HILL GOLF CLUB: Father and son

sumo match: First round: M J

and R Hughes (Plymouth) 2 and 1; P A and

R Hughes (Plymouth) 2 and 1; P A and

R Hughes (Plymouth) 2 and 1; P A and

R Hughes (Plymouth) 2 and 1; P A and

R Hughes (Plymouth) 2 and 1; P A and

R Hughes (Plymouth) 2 and 1; P A and

R Hughes (Plymouth) 2 and 1; P A and

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R Hughes (Plymouth) 2 and 1; P A and</



## BBC1

- 6.00 Business Breakfast (56533)  
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (3230933)  
9.05 Attack of the Killer Tomatoes. Cartoon adventures (i) (s) (7493933) 9.30 Why Don't You...? Ideas for bored youngsters (s) (19007)  
10.00 News (CeeFax), regional news and weather (560533) 10.05 Playdays (i) (s) (7483587)  
10.30 Good Morning... with Anne and Nick. Weekday magazine presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen. Includes News (CeeFax) and weather at 11.00 and 12.00 (5604910)  
12.05 Pebble Mill. Music and chat introduced by Alan Titchmarsh (s) (4627620) 12.45 Good Morning... with Anne and Nick. A round-up of the morning's events (1113484) 12.55 Regional News and weather (7327210)  
1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hayton. (CeeFax) (560574)  
1.30 Neighbours. (CeeFax) (s) (1149839) 1.50 Eldorado (i). (CeeFax) (s) (1694826)  
2.20 Hawaii Five-O. McGarrett tackles an unusual murder case in which the chief suspect is an eccentric millionaire (i) (1327842) 3.10 Turnabout. Word game hosted by Bob Curling (s) (5649604)  
3.40 Cartoon. (564587) 3.50 Ping. Animated adventures of a clumsy penguin (731910) 3.55 Wildabout. The first of a new wildlife series for children (s) (247885) 4.10 Galaxy Good-Ups starring Yogi Bear (1423705) 4.35 The Movie Game. A new series of the film and video quiz. (CeeFax) (s) (7590281)  
5.00 Newsround (567200) 5.10 Dodgem. Episode two of the six-part children's drama (i). (CeeFax) (s) (561881)  
5.35 Neighbours (i). (CeeFax) (s) (289910). Northern Ireland. Inside Ulster  
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey. (CeeFax) (5610)  
6.30 Regional News Magazines (262). Northern Ireland. Neighbours (s) (3674)  
7.30 Tomorrow's World. Includes details of a computer that can be controlled by a glance. (CeeFax) (s) (674)  
8.00 May To December. Age-gap comedy romance starring Anton Rodgers and Lesley Dunlop. (CeeFax) (s) (6194)  
8.30 The Gaffer. Generation clash comedy series, written by Lorraine Kaye. (CeeFax) (s) (6129)  
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Burk. (CeeFax) (5610)  
9.30 Q.E.D.: Knights of the Shining Piddock. (CeeFax) (s) See Choice (56277)

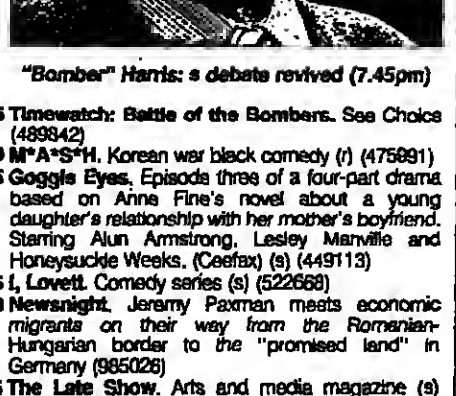


Manic playboy: Moore with Minnelli (10.00pm)

- 10.00 Film: Arthur (1981) starring Dudley Moore, Liza Minnelli and, in an Oscar-winning role, John Gielgud. Comedy about a wealthy, hard-drinking playboy who stands to lose his inheritance unless he marries a respectable heiress. Complications arise when he falls for an impoverished waitress. (Directed by Steve Gordon) (56113)  
11.35 Beyond the Fringe. John Heylson with the fourth of seven programmes for Holy Week. (CeeFax) (564007) 11.50 Weather (56465)  
2.15-3.45 BBC Select: Accountancy Television. Scrambled (258779) 3.15 Legal Network Television. Scrambled (40021)

## BBC2

- 7.35 Open University. Arts — Composer and Audience (748753)  
8.00 Breakfast News (5290007) 8.15 Top Gear Take Two. The design of Alfa Romeo (i) (5430393)  
8.20 Women of our Century. Doris Russell, women's rights campaigner (i). (CeeFax) (9717026)  
9.00 Film: Ruthless. 1948, b/w starring Zachary Scott. Drama about an amoral lawyer, dispensing kindness and family in his light to get to the top. Directed by Edgar G. Ulmer (37155910)  
10.40 Film: Cheers for Miss Bishop (1941, b/w) starring Martha Scott. Tearjerker about the life of a devoted schoolteacher in a small midwestern town. Directed by Tay Garnett (2863820)  
12.10 Arthur Negus Enjoys. A tour of Goodwood House (i) (565202)  
12.30 In at the Deep End. Paul Henley tries his hand at camping (i). (CeeFax) (4242945)  
1.20 Melvin and Maureen's Music-a-Hand (i) (s) (9387826) 1.35 CountryFile (i) (5629991)  
2.00 News (CeeFax) and weather (5048910) 2.05 I Could Do That. Model maker Alan Heaver at work (i) (15647533)  
2.15 Racing From Ascot. The 2.30, 3.05 and 3.35 races (319113)  
4.00 Film: The Invisible Man (1933, b/w) starring Claude Rains. Science fiction drama, based on the novel by H.G. Wells, about a scientist who discovers a drug that causes invisibility but has disturbing side effects. Directed by James Whale. (CeeFax) (4225129)  
5.10 Horizon: Ghosts in the Dinosaur Graveyard (i). (CeeFax) (s) (1100588)  
6.00 Star Trek. Classic science fiction adventures (i) (567449) 6.50 DEF II: Reportage. Violence and crime in the United States (s) (565533)  
7.30 Painted Passions. How the Passion has been depicted by artists. (CeeFax) (748945)



"Bomber" Harris: a debate revived (7.45pm)

- 7.45 Timewatch: Battle of the Bombers. See Choice (48942)  
9.00 M\*A\*S\*H. Korean war black comedy (i) (475891)  
9.25 Goggle Eyes. Episode three of a four-part drama based on Anne Fine's novel about a young daughter's relationship with her mother's boyfriend. Starring Alan Armstrong, Lesley Manville and Honeyuckle Weeks. (CeeFax) (s) (491113)  
10.05 I, Lovell. Comedy series (s) (522688)  
10.30 Newsnight. Jeremy Paxman meets economic migrants on their way from the Romanian-Hungarian border to the 'promised land' in Germany (565028)  
11.15 The Late Show. Arts and media magazine (s) (564064) 11.55 Week (751571)  
12.00 Crossing the Border. How England and Englishness was portrayed in the 1930s (31494). Ends at 12.30am

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The numbers next to each Video PlusCode are the numbers which allow you to program your video recorder to receive a VideoPlus signal. VideoPlus can be used with most video sets. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. For more details of VideoPlus and the Video PlusCode, see the Video PlusCode on the back of the Video PlusCode card. Video PlusCode is a trademark of Video Plus Ltd.

## CHOICE

Timewatch: Battle of the Bombers  
BBC2, 7.45pm

The fifth anniversary of Bomber Command's offensive in the Ruhr is the cue for a reassessment of the allied bombing of German cities in the second world war. In effect, it is a rehash of the "Bomber" Harris debate, asking whether the policy, which brought a huge loss of civilian life, was either militarily justified or morally defensible. An often heated studio discussion is relayed by Jonathan Dimbleby. An air vice-marshal is still 100 per cent behind Bomber Command and what not least, he is a doctor. A German woman says the destruction of Dresden was the worst crime of the second world war. Between these two extremes are many useful shades of grey. The topic is brought up to date to include the Gulf war.



Medicinal mollusc: the Knights (BBC1, 9.30pm)

QED: Knights of the Shining Piddock  
BBC1, 9.30pm

For once the title says it all. The Knights are Jan and Robert, a wife and husband team of scientists who have created a research laboratory in their Victorian house in Plymouth. The Piddock is a shellfish which glows in the dark and could, we are told, make the Knights into millionaires. This is because it has medicinal properties — it cures arthritis, diabetes, arthritis and heart disease. The Knights met when he was taking evening classes and she wanted help with an Open University course. Their job is their hobby and the other way round. They have been doing research into the piddock for 15 years, a two-person hobby on the world. Now the world is flocking to them. It makes an irresistible story.

Dispatches  
Channel 4, 9.00pm

This is the tale of the bank executive, the secretary and the former army major. All are considered too old to work, though the bank man is only 45 and the others in their fifties. All are victims of an attitude which says that older people lack motivation, are unadaptable and unwilling to retrain. The aged stereotype is a discredited by recent research, which finds that older people may be more, not less, effective than the younger people who replace them. But Tesco seems to be a rare exception to the view that over-40 is over the top. This thought-provoking report highlights a wider consideration. In an increasingly aging population it might become impossible for the declining number in work to sustain those who have been forced out of it.

Eat Your Greens  
Channel 4, 8.30pm

Sophie Grigson's Friday series, *Grow Your Greens*, is about raising vegetables. This one is about cooking them. As television cooks go Grigson is gimmick-free. There are no Floydian flourishes, no Hudson and Halls high camp. She is even prepared to leave the stage to guest practitioners, relegating herself to interested onlooker. Tonight's challenge is to live up to the vegetable that often raises a yawn. To be specific, Grigson offers suggestions for carrots, beetroot and potatoes, not on the face of it, the components of a smarmy menu. The potatoes are subsumed in a chicken stew, which is cheating a bit. But the beetroot makes a borscht and the carrots a korma and both look highly tempting.

## ITV LONDON

- 6.00 GMTV. The guests include Harry Cornick Jr, Sinitta and Joe Longmire (7049113)  
9.25 Jeopardy! Steve Jones has the answers, the contestants have to provide the questions (7482823) 9.55 London Today (Teletext) and weather (7396037) 10.00 Police Academy. Cartoon series based on the successful film comedy (7309434)  
10.25 The Morning Magazine series (56338736)  
12.10 Allsorts. Young children's entertainment (8664007)  
12.30 Lunchtime News (Teletext) and weather (2673133) 1.05 London Today (Teletext) and weather (9393571)  
1.15 Home and Away. Australian family drama. (Teletext) (540465) 1.45 A Country Practice. Medical drama set in the Australian outback (s) (567763)  
2.15 The Crystal Rose Show. A discussion on the best age to be a parent (737945) 2.45 Take the High Road. Highland-based drama (4100674)  
3.10 ITN News headlines (5070345) 3.15 London Today (Teletext) and weather (8079216) 3.20 Blockbusters. General knowledge quiz game for teenagers (s) (1829532)  
3.50 Cartoon featuring Speedy Gonzales (7333378) 3.55 Scooby Doo (i) (s) (238026) 4.10 The Seven Eleven. Episode eight of the ten-part drama set in a primary school (7621533)



In bat: Martino Lazzari as Lawrence (4.40pm)

- 4.40 The Lodge. A new ten-part drama serial about a carer in care. Starring Martino Lazzari (s) (8110200)  
5.10 Home and Away (i). (Teletext) (1747282) 5.40 Early Evening News (Teletext) and weather (866736)  
6.00 London Tonight presented by Alastair Stewart and Fiona Foster. The guests include James Galway and Sir David Frost (720333)  
6.50 This Is Your Life. Michael Aspel with a polished biography of another unsuspecting worthy (s) (462113)  
7.20 The European Match Champions League Live. Brian Moore and Ron Atkinson are the commentators for the return game in France between Marseilles and Glasgow Rangers (5657084)  
9.30 Coronation Street. (Teletext) (28755) 10.00 News at Ten (Teletext) and weather (90484) 10.30 London Tonight (Teletext) and weather (710804)  
10.40 Film: Naked Lie (1989) starring Victoria Principal and James Farentino. Legal thriller about a lawyer prosecuting a pimp for the murder of a prostitute who uncovers a web of blackmail involving a number of seemingly respectable men. Directed by Richard Cole (1251842)  
12.30am The European Champions League. Highlights of tonight's games between Marseilles and Glasgow Rangers and AC Milan v Gothenburg (28717)  
1.30 Entertainment UK. Weekly leisure guide (s) (710804)  
2.30 The Crystal Rose Show. As 2.15pm (38682) 3.00 The Little Picture Show. Film and video reviews (i) (61205)  
4.00 60 Minutes. American news magazine (12427) 5.00 RTN. French drama serial (82865) 5.30 ITN Morning News (81999). Ends at 6.00

## CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 Sesame Street (i) (5624561)  
6.45 Dennis. Animated adventures of a naughty boy (i) (3842533)  
7.00 The Big Breakfast presented by Chris Evans and Gaby Roslin. The guests include Mark Little from the cast of Neighbours (52945)  
9.00 Wish Kid. Cartoon series (i) (75333) 9.30 The Batman (b/w). Vintage 1940s exploits of the caped crusader and his sidekick Robin in (5632489) 9.50 Sleeping Beauty. Hans and Balthazar animation (7395378)  
9.55 Gamesmaster. Computer and video games magazine (i) (7484587) 10.30 New Kids on the Block — On Tour. A musical mix of live action and animation (1273216)  
10.55 The Miraculous Melopops. Australian fantasy songs (i) (1165007) 11.25 The Bunbury Tales. Australian family drama (i) (7856)  
12.00 I Love Lucy (b/w). Vintage American domestic comedy starring Lucille Ball (79397)  
12.30 Sesame Street. The guest is James Taylor (39216) 1.30 Little Rascals. Animated adventures of a baby Rosalind Arnold (i) (s) (197084)  
2.00 Film: Dangerous When Wet (1953) starring Esther Williams and Fernando Lamas. Romantic comedy about an Arkansas farmer's daughter determined to swim the English Channel. Directed by Charles Walters. (Teletext) (420688)  
3.45 Raising the Roof. A report on the progress of the Tyneside home builders (5323668)  
3.58 The Pulse. The problems and treatment of incontinence (i) (9436231)  
4.30 Fifteen To One (Teletext) (s) (1755)  
5.00 Enormous Lies. Animation from Hungary (1916716)  
5.15 Mimi. Winnie (1988) starring Meredith Berny Baxter. A model or television drama, based on a book about a slightly retarded woman who, after spending 30 years in institutions, is determined to live a normal life in public. Directed by John Kory (Teletext) (4323030)  
7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) and weather (384945)  
7.50 Party Political. Comment from a Conservative peer, politician (37702)  
8.00 Brookside. (Teletext) (s) (9804)  
8.30 Eat Your Greens. (Teletext) (s) See Choice (8933) 9.00 Dispatches. See Choice (811261)  
9.45 A-Z: Letters from the Homeless. (Teletext) (39666)



Ring out the old: wedding bells (10.00pm)

- 10.00 The Golden Girls. The final episode of the successful comedy series about four women who share the same Miami home. (Teletext) (s) (479755)  
10.35 Gimma Shelter. Film — Tickets For the Zoo (1991) starring Tom Smith and Alice Broe. An award-winning drama about two teenagers who leave the children's home where they have lived for nine years with hopes high of making their own way in the outside world. Directed by Brian Curnish (2301010)  
12.15am Raising the Roof. An update on the progress of the home-building Tynesiders (574021)  
12.25 Gimma Shelter: St Ann's. A 1959 documentary by Stephen Frears about the lives of people living in St Ann's, a slum area of Nottingham (5079232). Ends at 1.210

## VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA  
As London except 2.15-2.45 Gardening Time (737945) 3.00-3.15 The Young Doctors (1829532) 3.15-3.30 Blockbusters (1747282) 3.30-3.45 Home and Away (32642) 3.45-3.55 News (560533) 4.00-4.10 Coronation Street (462113) 4.10-4.20 This Is Your Life (28755) 4.20-4.30 The European Champions League (5657084) 4.30-4.40 The New Music (564064) 4.40-4.50 The New Music (564064) 4.50-5.00 The New Music (564064) 5.00-5.10 The New Music (564064) 5.10-5.20 The New Music (564064) 5.20-5.30 The New Music (564064) 5.30-5.40 The New Music (564064) 5.40-5.50 The New Music (564064) 5.50-6.00 The New Music (564064) 6.00-6.10 The New Music (564064) 6.10-6.20 The New Music (564064) 6.20-6.30 The New Music (564064) 6.30-6.40 The New Music (564064) 6.40-6.50 The New Music (564064) 6.50-7.00 The New Music (564064) 7.00-7.10 The New Music (564064) 7.10-7.20 The New Music (564064) 7.20-7.30 The New Music (564064) 7.30-7.40 The New Music (564064) 7.40-7.50 The New Music (564064) 7.50-8.00 The New Music (564064) 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## SPORT

WEDNESDAY APRIL 7 1993

RACING 37

JOCKEY CLUB  
NAMES NATIONAL  
INVESTIGATION TEAM

## Marseilles and Rangers go for broke

FROM RODDY FORSYTH  
IN MARSEILLES

THE format of the European Champions League permits scope for ambiguity, but Marseilles and Rangers know that the winners of their meeting in the Stade Vélodrome tonight will automatically qualify for the European Cup final in Munich on May 26. That fact alone guarantees that neither side will seek refuge in a split decision.

If the result is a draw, the group will go to the concluding fixtures. Marseilles would need to beat Bruges in Belgium — a feat no team has achieved in any European competition — while Rangers would have to win against CSKA Moscow at Ibrox and hope the French champions stumble. Yesterday, both sides were emphatic that their strategies would be

designed to secure victory tonight. Walter Smith, the Rangers manager, said: "We are aware that the section will not be over if we draw with Marseilles and that we would still have a good chance of getting through. But it is never satisfactory to have your fate dependent on another team who have no chance of qualifying."

"We'll therefore concentrate on getting the result which resolves everything, because it would be folly if we came here to sit back in the hope that they might not score."

Raymond Goethals, Marseilles' Belgian manager, said: "I believe the advantage would still be with us if the game ends in a draw. But since we can put an end to the issue with a win, that is what we intend to do."

"Our game is not designed to

Group A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Marseilles	4	2	2	0	12	3	8
Rangers	4	2	2	0	8	4	8
Bruges	4	1	1	2	8	6	5
CSKA	4	0	1	3	1	8	1

RESULTS: Bruges 1, CSKA Moscow 0; Rangers 2, Marseilles 0; CSKA Moscow 0, Rangers 1; Marseilles 3, Bruges 0; Bruges 1, CSKA Moscow 0; Rangers 1, Marseilles 0; CSKA Moscow 0, Bruges 2; Bruges 1, CSKA Moscow 0.

FIXTURES: Today: CSKA Moscow v Bruges; Marseilles v Rangers; April 21: Bruges v Marseilles; Rangers v CSKA Moscow.

has netted in Europe this season were against Leeds United.

The conundrum for Walter Smith is whether to deploy Durrant as an attacking partner or field McCoist as a lone forward and play five in midfield in the hope that Steven, Huistra and Richard Gough, the Rangers captain and pivotal figure in the Ibrox defence, agreed that the early stages will probably be crucial. "The crowd will drive them from the start and they will come at us in waves," he said.

"It is no use trying to close down one position because, even if you hold off Bole and Voller, they have Abedi Pele, Sanez and Deschamps coming in behind."

The equation works both ways, however, and McCoist, who missed the first meeting between the sides because of injury, ob-

served that Marseilles' temperament was not sturdy. "They looked like world beaters when they were winning but, when the game began to go against them, a few of them didn't want to know," he said.

"Without Hateley, it will be so much harder for us to score, but we have proved we are a team that does not know how to give in. If the game stays tight for a long time, I believe it will go in our favour."

"We have taken a while to get going in some games recently but, believe me, we cannot wait to get out there. We all know that the biggest game of our lives is only 90 minutes away if we win."

RANGERS (probable): A. Gossart; S. McCall; O. Robinson; J. Brown; D. McPherson; R. Gough; T. Steven; I. Ferguson; A. McCoist; I. Durrant; P. Huistra; Marseilles (probable): F. Bachevalier; J. Angoulme; B. Bole; M. Deschamps; E. D. Voller; O. Deschamps; R. Sanez; J. P. Durrant; A. Pele; R. Voller; F. Bole; R. Voller; M. Van der Ende (Holland).

## United and Villa face concluding screen test

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

ASTON Villa and Manchester United learnt yesterday that they will feature in a Sunday double bill in London on the final weekend of the Premier League season to complete the inaugural championship.

Villa's last game of the campaign is at Queens Park Rangers, while United take on Wimbledon at Selhurst Park. Both games have been put back a day, to Sunday May 9, when they will be screened live at 2pm by BSkyB.

Norwich lost 3-1 at home to United, who they trail by a point, on Monday. They are a further point adrift of the leaders, Villa, and could go back to the top by winning at Tottenham on Good Friday, but they have played a game more than the top two. The league is banking on a straight contest between Villa and United, and Norwich will go to Middlesbrough on the last Saturday as planned.

Television also dictates that the Barclays League first division match between the leaders, Newcastle United, and the play-off hopefuls, Leicester, will be switched to the Sunday for showing on ITV.

That is unlikely to meet with the approval of Leicester's rivals, but there is no room for appeal by the likes of Swindon, Portsmouth and Millwall. "The contract dictates that ITV can select four games after the transfer deadline for semi-network coverage, and they have chosen Newcastle's last match," a league spokesman said.

Bryan Gunn, the Norwich

goalkeeper, believes the decision to leave his side out of the final reckoning is premature. "There are a lot more twists and turns still to come," he said. "With three points for a win, it can change so quickly, as all three of us have learnt in recent weeks. Every game from here on in will be tough — I'd be amazed if anyone collected maximum points. We start at Tottenham on Friday and that won't be easy. After losing to Arsenal in the FA Cup, people will say they have nothing to play for but they'll want to please their fans."

Coventry and Blackburn, who both have to play Villa and United in the final weeks, may hold the key to the outcome, as may the judgment of Alex Ferguson, the United manager. He has Mark Hughes available after suspension for the match against Sheffield Wednesday at Old Trafford on Saturday and must decide whether to upset the attacking balance of his side.

With Ryan Giggs operating through the middle and Andrei Kanchelskis wide, United ended a spell which had produced just two goals in their previous four games at Carrow Road. "It's going to be difficult to pick a team," Ferguson said after the victory on Tuesday.

Gunn thinks Hughes could have to wait on the sidelines along with Bryan Robson, the United captain. "With players of the pace of Giggs, Kanchelskis and Sharpe — plus the skill of Cantona — you're always in danger of being split apart, and that's what happened to us," Gunn said. "They looked very strong, but Villa have the point advantage, so it's in their hands now — they can only lose it."

Mike Walker, the Norwich manager, backed the claim of Ron Atkinson, his Villa counterpart, that Villa are as good, if not better, than a United side who rely heavily on their back four. Supporting him was television evidence that suggested Norwich could have had penalties from pushes and trips before the three goals in an eight-minute spell which settled the outcome.



Mastery advice: Watson, twice US Masters winner, watches practice at Augusta National this week

## Masters players boast record-breaking form

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

LOW scoring has been the order of the year on the United States golf tour, and if the trend continues at this week's US Masters the tournament record of 17-under-par 271, shared by Jack Nicklaus and Raymond Floyd, could be at risk.

US Tour leaders have taken turns rewriting records this year. First it was Tom Kite, the US Open champion, at the Bob Hope Classic, then Greg Norman at the Doral Ryder Open, and most recently Nick Price, the PGA champion,

who dominated an elite field in the Players' Championship. Price, of Zimbabwe, who set the Masters single-round record of 63 in 1986, has won five times since last August as his putting touch has improved and become a perfect partner to his formidable ball-striking skill.

"I've never had a time where my putting was as strong," Price said. "That win at the PGA turned everything around. I can't say exactly why or whatever."

Kite also took off on a

winning spree after his Open triumph at Pebble Beach. "I decided I was going to have fun in my year as US Open champion," Kite said. He has won twice and had five top-ten finishes since. "I don't know why it's happening. I just know that I'm playing the best golf of my life."

Kite, 43, golf's all-time leading money-winner, has an added incentive when he tees off at Augusta on Thursday. Last year he was not invited to the Masters.

Norman, who was runner-

up in the Masters in 1986 and 1987, ended a 27-month victory drought last September by winning the Canadian Open. He staged a spectacular comeback almost to overtake Nick Faldo at the Johnnie Walker world championship, and then demolished the tournament record at the Doral Ryder Open by five strokes.

Faldo and Fred Couples, the defending champion, can also threaten the record book.

Langer's quest, page 38

## Welsh full back named in drug test allegations

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

TONY Clement, the Wales full back who will tour with the British Isles in New Zealand this summer, allegedly took a banned substance before the France-Wales international in Paris last month.

Clement and his opposite number, Jean-Baptiste Lafont, were both claimed yesterday as having taken medication substances included on the French Sports Ministry's banned list, though not by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) whose guidelines the home unions tend to follow, in consultation with national Sports Councils.

It is, though, unlikely that any disciplinary action will be necessary when the full results of tests are known next week. Lafont took Phocodine, a narcotic analgesic, for a cough and made the requisite declaration before the match. Clement was treated by the Welsh Rugby Union's (WRU) own medical advisors — who have been in the forefront of ensuring that drugs do not become a problem in rugby — for an attack of dysentery.

The French Rugby Federation has yet to inform the WRU of the substance Clement, one of four players routinely required to take a drugs test after the match, is supposed to have taken.

"We are confident that the medication given to Tony Clement under the supervision of our medical staff was

correct," Denis Evans, the secretary of the WRU, said. "I have contacted the FFR and they have told me that they know nothing about this matter. Clement was ill prior to the game in Paris and had to be sent to bed on the night the team arrived in France. He was treated for sickness and dysentery, and also received medication substances included on the French Sports Ministry's banned list, though not by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) whose guidelines the home unions tend to follow, in consultation with national Sports Councils."

The WRU medical staff are convinced there was no infringement of the IOC regulations. Tony gave a full list of the medication he had taken to the drug testing officer.

The French Rugby Federation released a statement saying that the results of tests on Lafont and Clement were still not known. "At the current stage, anything that has been said is without basis," the statement said.

Leicester will be at full strength for their Pilkington Cup semi-final against Northampton on Saturday after Aadel Kardooni, their scrum half, was declared fit after being taken to hospital with suspected appendicitis scare.

TONY CLEMENT

The Times offers the chance to win a trip to the Rugby World Cup Sevens

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## CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 3065

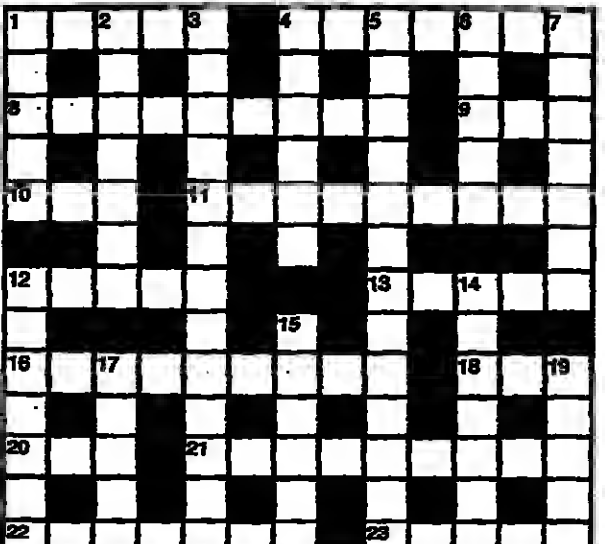
- ACROSS
- 1 HQ officers (5)
  - 2 Reduction (7)
  - 3 Tinsely (9)
  - 4 Sheep enclosure (3)
  - 5 Rocky hill (3)
  - 6 Continual (9)
  - 7 Gradually declined (5)
  - 8 Saint's body part (5)
  - 9 Rid of germs (9)
  - 10 And not (3)
  - 11 Intricate network (3)
  - 12 Inward looking (9)
  - 13 Passed on (7)
  - 14 Go in (5)

- DOWN
- 1 Solidly built (5)
  - 2 Common pain drug (7)
  - 3 Faking police area (9,4)
  - 4 Critical point (6)
  - 5 Discovered hoard (8,5)
  - 6 The first (5)
  - 7 Caused by motion (7)
  - 8 Bereaved man (7)
  - 9 Mercurial (7)
  - 10 Dissolved (6)
  - 11 Greek oracle (5)
  - 12 Distributor arm (5)

## SOLUTIONS TO NO 3065

- ACROSS: 1 Usurps 5 Secede 8 Bold 9 Auctions  
10 Tweeds 12 Bath 15 Ains and Grace  
16 Ash 19 Aspirate 21 Jerk 22 Twenty 23 Emboss  
DOWN: 2 Snow white 3 Rod 4 Swan song 5 Sock 6 Clip-board 7 Don 11 Ex-Service 13 Treasures 14 Aggravate 15 Wary 20 Sew 21 Job

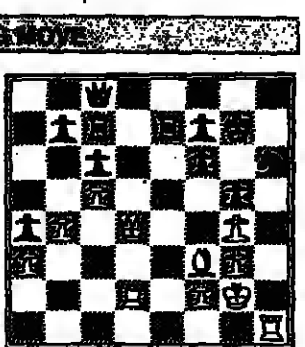
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## By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

This position is from the game Fernandez — Hansen, Debreven 1992. How did white extract maximum value from the open h-file?

Solution on page 36



## By PHILIP HOWARD

- SPODIC
- a. A Greek verse metre
  - a. An illuvial deposit
  - c. Lame or limping
- LANGSUAY
- a. A female vampire
  - b. Having loog skirts
  - c. Farewell, ave atque vale

- DUNNAMANY
- a. An indeterminate number
  - a. A hacking jacket
  - a. A gentleman friend
- SNAYEL
- a. Navel fluff
  - b. To pinch
  - c. To snivel and whine
- Answers on page 36